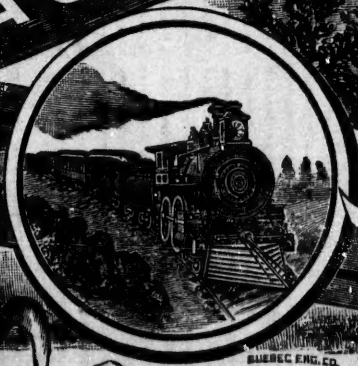




The Territory of  
*Lake St. John*  
THE Wheat Growing District  
OF THE  
PROVINCE OF Quebec

A Guide FOR Settlers



Edited for the  
**Quebec & Lake St. John R'y.**

by  
**A. BUIES 1891**



THE  
LAKE SAINT JOHN  
REGION,

THE GRANARY  
OF THE  
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

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A GUIDE FOR SETTLERS.



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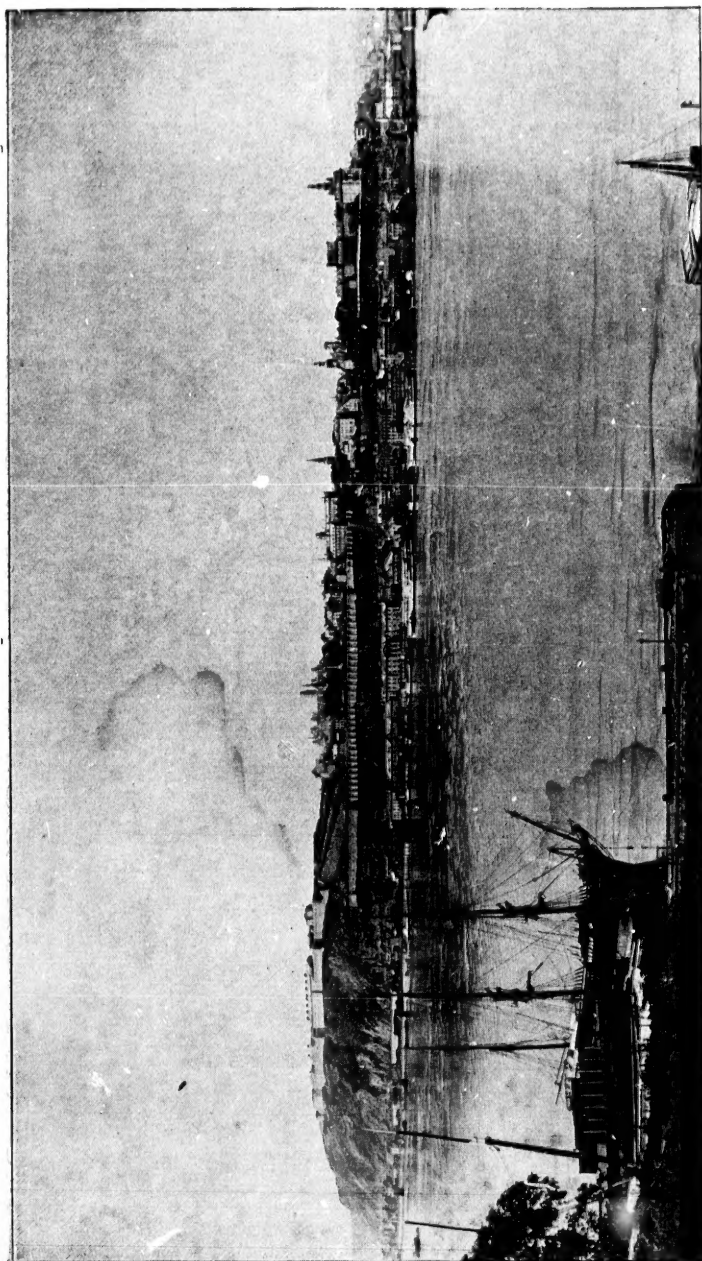
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QUEBEC.

# THE LAKE ST. JOHN REGION.

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## I.

This region, of which the following pages give a rapid but complete sketch, is one of the most celebrated in the Province of Quebec. It is celebrated by its traditions, its legends, its geological formation, which is still a problem, its incomparable fertility, and finally its natural picturesqueness and grandeur.

It covers a space of about fourteen million square acres in round numbers, between  $49^{\circ}$  and  $50^{\circ}$  north latitude and  $70^{\circ}$  and  $74^{\circ}$  west longitude.

Its population which, according to the census of 1881, was 24,293 souls, is now, in all probability, 40,000.

The colonization of the basin of Lake St. John commenced only about 1851-52. At that time Chicoutimi and Grande Baie, which are now such important centres of the Saguenay country, were still in their infancy; and in the interior, beyond these two embryo parishes, ascending the Saguenay as far as Lake St. John, there was nothing but the virgin forest, and not even the outline of a township.

At the present time the number of townships laid out, and more or less settled in the basin of the Lake, properly so called, is not less than thirty, the most fertile of which, to the east and west of the Lake, may well be called the "Granary of the Province."

## II.

Lake St. John which the Indians call "Pikouagami," (*flat lake*) drains the immense valley which bears its name and is the reservoir of several large rivers. Its distance from Quebec in a straight line is about 140 miles; from Chicoutimi 60 miles and from Tadousac 120 miles.



Its greatest length between the mouth of Belle-Rivière and that of the Mistassini is 28 miles, and its greatest breadth has been calculated at 25 miles. An exact measurement gives it a circumference of 85 miles.

The lake is not deep; the greatest average not exceeding 80 feet. At one spot near the centre, the depth has been ascertained to be 225 feet, as stated in an official report of Mr. Joseph Rosa, engineer, dated the 14th January, 1885.

In the Spring the waters rise from 15 to 24 feet above their ordinary level, and 3 or 4 feet only during the high winds in the Autumn.

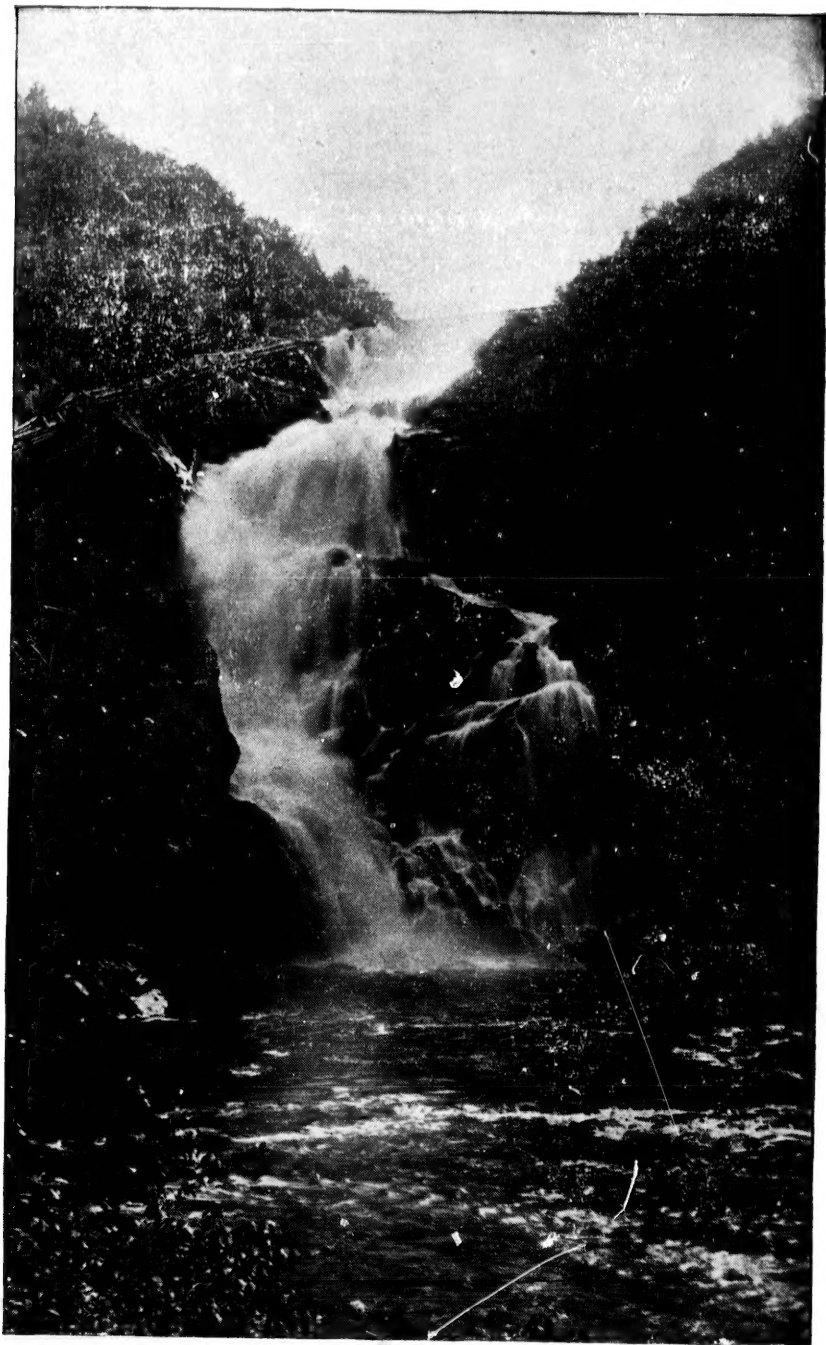
All around Lake St. John there is an extensive system of water communication which is, of course, of the greatest advantage to colonization, and which will one day offer great commercial facilities to the valley, although the rivers constituting the system are, over the greater part of their course, navigable only for light draught vessels.

The principal rivers are: on the south the Metabetchouan and the Ouiatchouan; on the east Belle-Rivière, on the west the Chamouchouan, on the north-west the Ticonapee and Mistassini; on the north and north-east the Great and the Little Peribonca.

The Peribonca is navigable for ordinary sized steamers up to a point thirty miles from its mouth. It is a very long river. It is stated that one has to go four hundred miles before reaching its source, and this without finding the slightest trace of any habitation or even of man having passed there.

The Mistassini is navigable for a length of twenty miles, the Chamouchouan for fifteen and the Ticonapee for twice the latter distance.

On the river Ouiatchouan at about a mile from where it flows into Lake St. John, are the famous falls of the same name, which are at least 230 feet high, and can be seen, as



OUIATCHOUAN FALLS,



if it were exactly opposite, from every point on the north shore of the Lake.

All these rivers drain lands of the greatest fertility. The sub-soil consists nearly everywhere of calcareous rock on which rest layers of clay, which are sometimes several hundreds of feet in thickness. The superficial deposits mixed with this clay consist of alluvial sands, of humus and vegetable detritus, which constitute a very rich arable soil, especially to the west and north of the lake. Of course there are exceptions, less fertile spots; but the description just given applies generally to the whole country.

Moreover, this fertility is established, *a priori*, by the very nature of the forests of this region, the principal trees of which are elm, ash, black birch, maple, red and white spruce, pine, cedar, hemlock and even bass-wood.

### III.

A long time ago it was stated that the valley of Lake St. John would one day be the granary of the Province of Quebec. The fact is that it alone is sufficiently large to constitute a province of itself, and in any case it is destined to become, before long, a vast field for the supply of the capital, and one towards which the most earnest and active colonization movements will be directed. Colonization, which increases unceasingly, is encircling the whole lake. For many years already it has extended rapidly towards the west in the townships of Normandin and Albanel. It is now extending northwards, and the valleys of the Mistassini and Peribonca will soon reveal all their fertility. This is because the Lake St. John region possesses exceptional advantages as regards soil and climate, which render it productive to an eminent degree.

Mr. Bouchette stated, fifty years ago, that the climate of Lake St. John was as mild as, and even milder than that of Montreal. While at Chicoutimi, onions, potatoes and cabbages froze on the 23rd September, 1832, they were un-

touched by frost at Lake St. John up to the 12th October. Melons even can be grown on the shores of the lake and the nights are not so cold as in other sections of the country.

These statements with reference to the climate are supported by the official observations of the Meteorological Office which will be found on pages 46 and 47 of this pamphlet. They prove that the summer temperature of the Lake St. John district is really the same as at Quebec, and warmer than at Rimouski, Dalhousie, N. B., Port Arthur, Ont., and Winnipeg, while the snow fall is one-half that of Montreal. They show also that the climate, in the fall, is remarkably mild, the average of the highest temperature at Roberval from the 15th September to the 8th October, 1890, being two degrees warmer than at Montreal.

The following is an extract from Mr. Ballantyne's report to the Government in 1857:—

Mr. Ballantyne said that his experience of seven years during which he had explored the various townships composing a portion of that fine territory, had led him to view matters in such a clear light that it was impossible for him not to make the whole truth known. He could safely say, without fear of denial, that he knew of no place in this province where there was a territory of such extent offering such great advantages in every respect as the portions of those townships which he had surveyed.

He added that the climate also was very favorable to agriculture. He had observed that many persons were surprised when told that the climate of Lake St. John rivalled that of Montreal, and yet it was perfectly true. An important fact he had noticed was that the north-east winds which were so damp and moist on the shores of the St. Lawrence lost most of their moisture before reaching Lake St. John and there became like the south-west winds on the banks of the river. The fruit trees in the garden at Metabetchouan post on the shore of the lake prove the mildness of the climate. One has but to glance at the forests of gigantic cedars, of red and white pine, spruce and birch, to be convinced of the excellence of the climate and the nourishing character of the soil.

Lake St. John is thus described by a gentleman who visited it recently :—" It is a magnificent sheet of water, abounding in fish, such as the Ouananiche (land-locked salmon) weighing from 5 to 14 pounds, and said by sportsmen to be equal in every respect to the ordinary Salmon, Pike, Doré, and other smaller kinds of fish.

"Only on a very fine day can the other side of the lake be seen ; at all other times it conveys the impression of an inland sea. Following up the west shore of the lake, the scenery is very fine. A distant blue point, hardly visible at first, gradually resolves itself into a long coast line, dotted with farms, villages and churches, reminding one of the St. Lawrence below Montreal. The eye never tires of the beautiful landscape : on one side fields of wheat, rising gradually from the border of the lake ; on the other the broad expanse of the lake."

#### THE SOIL

Is almost universally composed of a rich grey clay. The land seems to be inexhaustible. At Pointe-aux-Trembles I was shown a field of wheat which had been producing that grain for the last 15 years, without the application of any manure ; and the grain I saw this year was as fine as any to be found in this district. Truly one is struck with wonder at the richness of the soil, for I believe there is none richer in Canada.

The climate of the Lake St. John region is said to be that of Montreal ; there is no doubt of its being superior to that of Quebec. The snowfall is certainly less. In fact farmers complain that they do not get good sleigh roads till late in winter. On the 25th September this year, I remarked that the leaves of the trees were very little tinted, and potatoe stems were still green. Wheat and all grains ripen and produce abundantly, as may be seen from the following extracts, taken from the census returns : "

|                    | 1861.   | 1871.   | 1881.   |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Wheat, bushels...  | 10,912  | 136,099 | 154,589 |
| Oats, " ...        | 39,316  | 117,249 | 211,216 |
| Barley, " ...      | 30,922  | 71,210  | 47,025  |
| Other grains ..... | .....   | .....   | 108,183 |
| Potatoes, bushels. | 101,382 | 156,996 | 287,238 |
| Hay, tons .....    | 3,648   | 5,966   | 16,347  |
| Butter, lbs.....   | 61,777  | 148,106 | 393,127 |
| Head of live stock | 18,746  | 44,772  | 59,795  |
| Tobacco, lbs.....  | .....   | .....   | 67,437  |
| Population .....   | 10,478  | 17,493  | 32,409  |

Potatoes, carrots and other vegetables yield abundantly and of immense size. Wheat is of course the great test of the soil and climate of an agricultural country. Let us then compare its production at Lake St. John with the best districts of the Province, viz: the Eastern Townships, and we find that the census returns shew in 1881 :—

|                  | Population. | Bushels of<br>wheat. | Bushels per<br>1000 of population. |
|------------------|-------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Chicoutimi ..... | 32,409      | 154,589              | 4,800                              |
| Compton .....    | 19,581      | 34,181               | 1,800                              |
| Stanstead .....  | 15,556      | 37,727               | 2,400                              |
| Huntingdon ..... | 15,495      | 24,378               | 1,600                              |

See the result of Mr. Menard's experiment with Manitoba wheat, page 45 of this pamphlet.

We may also mention the statement of Mr. John Sullivan, surveyor, who in 1873, said that the barley and wheat at Lake St. John were the finest he had ever seen. The potatoe leaves were still green in the last week of October, which proves that the climate of the valley is favorable to the growth of cereals and garden plants. Barely two years ago, nearly all the farmers had more produce than they could consume, and of which they had great difficulty in disposing owing to the want of sufficiently near markets. But now it is otherwise, thanks to the construction of the Lake St John Railway, which runs to Roberval on the shore of the lake, and will soon extend to the eastward and westward, and give the settlers all the outlets they require.

This region is especially suited for raising cattle. The forage is so rich that the Lake St. John sheep are already celebrated for the excellent quality of their flesh, and this year several car-loads of these and of other cattle have been shipped.

We may now without hesitation, insert a descriptive page which we extract from Mr. Buie's book, entitled: "*Le Saguenay et la Vallée du Lac St. Jean.*"

"We at last stand on the shore of this miniature sea which has remained as legendary up to our days, whose name still sounds strangely in some ears, and over which for a very long period hung the mysterious veil which covers



WHEAT FIELD.—ST. FELECIEN.





the vast northern solitudes. Hardly thirty years ago, no one would have dared to believe that Lake St. John could be reached at all, it was so far away to the north. The surrounding country could but be the abode of fur-bearing animals, and the Indians alone were looked upon as likely to risk themselves in those gloomy haunts, protected by the Laurentian chain, and defended by a nature reputed inaccessible against the inroads of man. This of course was a prejudice, but let us admit that there was some reason for this prejudice, which represented the whole of the Lake St. John region as being inaccessible both to colonization and to cultivation, for this region has an appearance which no other part of Canada resembles. Observe the waves of this inland sea rising and falling on its bed of sand and alluvium, like a huge crab extending its many long and numerous rivers in every direction, like so many tentacles all ready to seize upon the settlers and draw them towards the bosom of the monster !.....

" Before us lies that lake whose renown, replete with legendary lore, has already extended to many countries. Before us lies that Lake St. John region which has since some years so greatly excited imagination, which has been so much spoken of, which is so little known and towards which tend so many and such ardent hopes. Before us lies that strange miniature sea with its fishy denizens as strange as itself; the *wananish*, which, for hours at a time, tries all the fisherman's skill, making leaps of several feet, jumping over a fall as easily as a stream, more active and vigorous although smaller, and faster than the salmon itself; the *munie*, which has the tail and colour of an eel, the form of a sea toad, and the head of a cod only a little flatter; the *atosset*, another singular fish, which comes no one knows whence, and whose progenitors must have made many crossings; finally the pike, the monster pike, six or seven feet in length, which is very destructive, constantly seeking its prey, and occasionally snatches at the feet of those who swim far out, wounding them severely..... There at last lies before us the dreamy miniature sea, in the bottom of its wide and fertile valley which attracts us and invites us to roam throughout it, to make sure of everything that has been promised in its name and to ascertain whether under such latitudes there really exists a privileged land, which may hereafter become one of the most populous centres of the northern portion of

the Province. Let us go and reconnoitre the valley of the Lake and judge of what it reserves for future settlers from what has been done by the present ones in less than twenty years, while we may observe that the greater part of the most fertile portions of the valley are not yet opened to colonization."

A glance at Mr. G. B. Du Tremblay's report (pages 18 and 20) of this pamphlet, and at that of Mr. P. H. Dumais (pages 25, 34 and 35) will show how true is the statement of Mr. Buies that the most fertile portions of the territory are not yet opened to colonization."

#### IV.

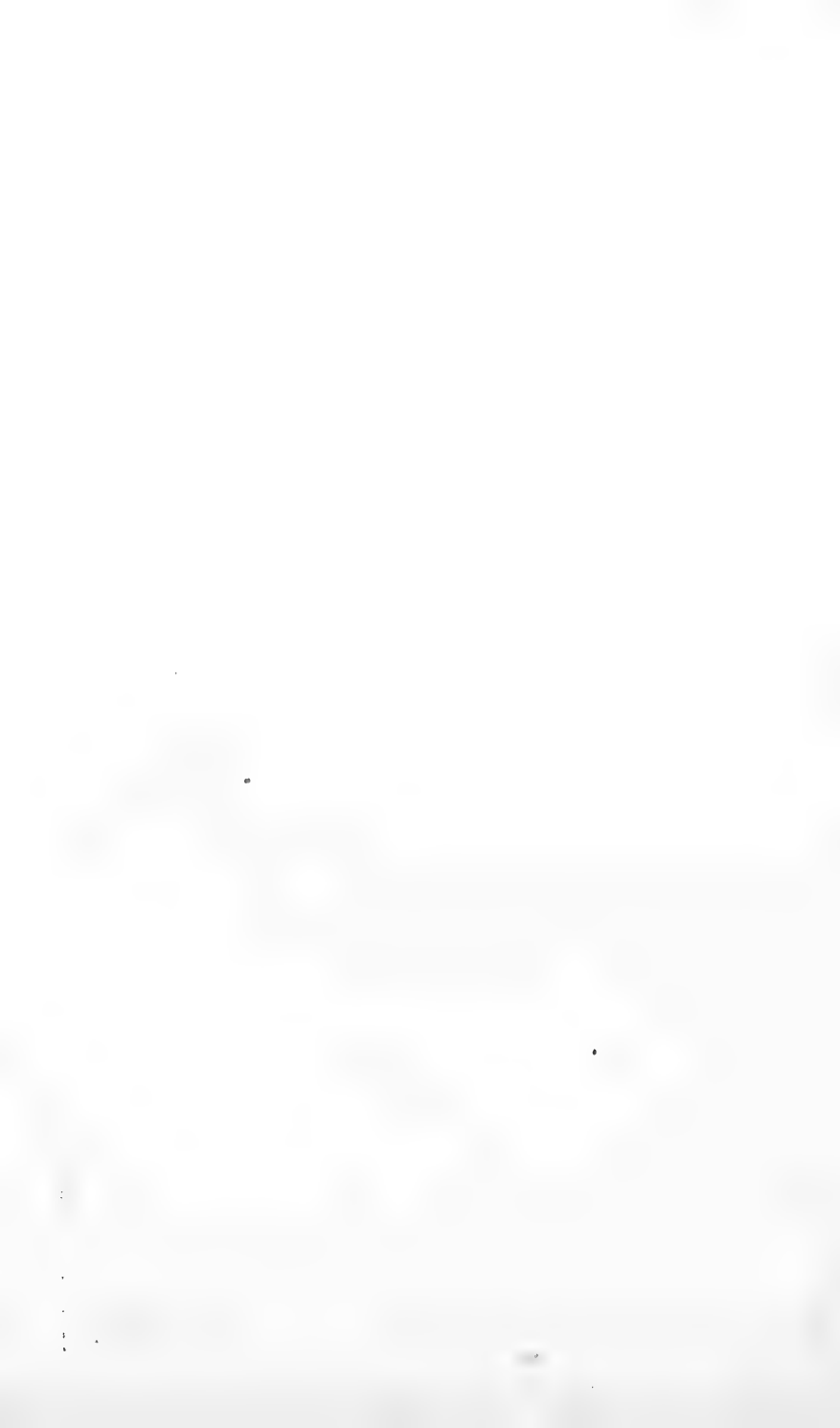
The region through which the Lake St. John Railway runs has entered upon an extraordinary era of development, thanks to the communications which have been opened, and to the enlightened initiative of the company. The main line from Quebec to Roberval is one hundred and ninety miles long, and it has been decided to extend it eastward as far as Chicoutimi and St. Alphonse, that is to say to the head of ocean navigation on the Saguenay River. St. Alphonse is a splendid harbour, which the largest transatlantic vessels can reach in perfect safety. It is projected to have a line of fast steamers running in connection with the railway, thus enabling tourists to contemplate, on land and water, the wonderful scenery of the Saguenay.

#### V.

In 1888, the quantity of saw logs cut along the line of the Lake St. John Railway was 210,000 ; last year it was 365,000. Formerly not a log was cut throughout the whole of this region. At the present time the Crown Lands Department derives a considerable revenue from this, which will continue to increase, and which is already sufficient to pay the interest on the greater portion of the subsidies voted to this railway by the Province. This year four new saw-mills will be built along the line, the largest of which has



LAKE ST. JOHN—FROM THE ROBEVAL HOTEL.



already been in operation at St. Raymond in the early part of the summer.

In 1889 the railway conveyed 79,000 passengers, 104,000 tons of freight, 27,000 cords of fire-wood, 25,000,000 feet of sawn lumber and 24,000 tons of other merchandize.

The various industries which supply this traffic and the lumber trade give employment to nearly 3,000 men.

Steps have been taken this year to provide three times more accommodation in the large Roberval Hotel. Besides this, another hotel, nearly as large as the latter, has been put up at the Grand Discharge.

The company intends to extend its operations to the west, east and north, so as to have an extensive net-work over the whole northern section of our Province.

The western extension, starting from Rivière à Pierre, will cross the whole St. Maurice region, and, following the valley of the Upper Ottawa, will extend to the northern extremity of Lake Temiscamingue. The company intends to put a line of steamers on the St. Maurice, between La Tuque and the Piles, a distance of 70 miles, which will be of great benefit to the settlers who are already in the St. Maurice valley, and greatly increase the lumber trade in that region. In the valleys of the Upper Ottawa and its tributaries nearly 4,000,000 pine logs are cut yearly, making the enormous quantity of 600,000,000 feet of lumber. When once the railway is built, most of this lumber would be sawn in mills, along the line, transported to Quebec, and thence shipped to European and South American ports. The country through which the new railway would run is not nearly so mountainous as is generally believed. It has been ascertained, amongst other things, that the St. Maurice at La Tuque is about on a level with Lorette. A considerable portion of this country, especially the Temiscamingue and Ottawa regions, are remarkably well suited for colonization.

A glance at the map shows that the projected line con-

stitutes the base of a triangle formed by the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers, decreasing the distance between Temiscamingue and the sea. But there is something more. If an extension were built from Temiscamingue to Sault Ste. Marie, grain shippers from the Western States would have 120 miles less distance to cover to reach a sea port. We may add that if the bridge over the St. Lawrence at Quebec were built, the distance between Winnipeg and Halifax, passing by Chapeau, Temiscamingue, Quebec and Temiscouata, would be 180 miles shorter than by the short line through Maine.

Quebec would thus become one of the largest grain shipping ports on the continent. It may be objected that our port is open to navigation for only seven months in the year. This is not a serious objection. The great grain shipping port of Russia is Archangel, in the White sea, within the Arctic circle, where navigation is open for only four months in the year, and yet the exports from that port alone are large even in comparison with those from the whole of Canada.

The eastern extension will consist in the first place of a railway between Chambord, Chicoutimi and St. Alphonse, over sixty miles long, through an agricultural region containing two-thirds of the population of the county. St. Alphonse will be the terminus, because its port is accessible to the largest vessels at nearly all seasons of the year, and without taking the tide into account. The company will then have a line of steamers between St. Alphonse and Rivière du Loup, so that, a tourist leaving Quebec at 8 p.m., could return the next day at the same hour, after making the Saguenay trip in 24 hours, which cannot at present be done under two days.

While speaking of the projects of the Lake St. John Railway Company, it is not at all out of place to mention what great advantages would be derived from the construction of a bridge between Quebec and Levis. The carrying out of that undertaking would double the number of



ROBERVAL HOTEL, ROBERVAL.





travellers and greatly increase the traffic over the Lake St. John Railway. One of the chief advantages would be that the granite quarries in the northern mountains might be worked on a large scale. There are similar quarries in the State of Maine, which give employment, throughout the year, to over 1000 men. Another quarry of the same kind in New Hampshire, has giving birth to a flourishing city. Large quantities are shipped to Chicago, Cincinnati and all the Western American cities.

We will now take up in detail the various townships which constitute the surveyed portion of the Lake St. John territory, and give extracts respecting them from the reports of the surveyors who have made official explorations.

#### **Township of Bourget.**

All this section of the township of Bourget, which I subdivided, is deserving in the highest degree of the attention of your department. The soil is of superior quality, being composed chiefly of grey, black and yellow clay in the valleys, and of yellow sandy loam on the heights, the whole well adapted to cultivation. This tract of land is sufficiently large to form a parish and one of the best situated on the upper Saguenay. (*P. H. Dumais*, 24th March, 1870.)

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In the part of Bourget, which I have just subdivided, the land is in every respect of the best quality, and the climate leaves nothing to be desired, as the frosts, which were felt in June elsewhere, were not experienced here at all. Two hundred bushels of grain were sown this spring, and the harvest promises a good yield. A road opened by Government through this township would really be the salvation of the poor settlers desirous of locating there.

(*P. H. Dumais*, 30th August, 1870.)

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#### **Townships of Caron and Mésy.**

The soil, throughout the fifth and sixth ranges of Caron, east of the centre line, is very favorable to the opening of new settlements, whilst on the west side of the same line, and in the same ranges, it is very broken and rocky; the land, however, is of good quality and the timber splendid.

The land, to the east, is broken near the centre line ; but the soil is excellent along the whole line. On the west side, the neighborhood of the range line is rocky ; but, at a little distance from it, the rocks disappear and the soil improves considerably near the Quebec road, where a good part of the lots are marked by small clearings commenced last fall.

Timber of all kinds, such as is met in the other parts of the county of Chicoutimi, is found here of unusual size and height, especially in the valley of la Belle-Rivière and along its tributaries. Mill sites are numerous, and timber suitable for building purposes is found everywhere, notwithstanding the lumbering operations of the firm of Price Bros.

The mountains and rocks met with, and which will be always barren, monopolize about one quarter of the area subdivided ; but the timber with which they are covered will more than repay the settler for his trouble, if, profiting by the experience of past years, he exercises more prudence and discernment than others similarly situated have done, by consulting his future interests before destroying the forest forever. (*P. H. Dumais*, 31st January, 1871.)

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### **Township of Chamouchouan.**

The soil in this part of the township is generally a yellow mould, with spots of grey and black earth here and there.

The surface is in great part even, with undulations of the same character as in the township of Roberval. There are no mountains, only a few rocky places. The rivers Iroquois and à l'Ours, in wearing their beds down to the rock, have formed deep cuts such as are generally characteristic of the rivers of Lake St. John. There are several good water-powers and mill-sites on these rivers.

I have the honor to inform you that a number of farmers have already visited this locality to select lots ; they are nearly all men who have arrived at Lake St. John since last year. They propose to make clearings next spring.

With the aid of roads, which fortunately may be very easily made, these settlers will form the nucleus of a flourishing parish in these townships.

(*P. J. C. Dumais*, 4th February, 1880.)

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### **Townships of Chamouchouan and Demeules.**

From the reports which, from time to time. I have had the honor of addressing you, you probably have remarked the great extent of arable soil in the townships of Ashuapmouchouan and Demeules. As regards the quality of the soil, none can take precedence of the valley of the river Ashuapmouchouan. As in all other parts of the Saguenay, clay predominates. In some places, this clay is overlaid with a layer of sand, three or four inches deep; a precious element in many respects, especially for the growth of wheat, which, in such lands, is never attacked by the fly.

The most striking feature of the Ashuapmouchouan valley is that the land, though exceedingly well watered, is not broken by the deep ravines, steep rocks, &c., so common in other parts of the Saguenay. At least three good parishes can be formed in the townships of Ashuapmouchouan and Demeules, and I have no doubt that they will be, if the Government only seconds the exertions of the numerous settlers who intend taking that direction. From information obtained from competent persons, as well as from a reconnaissance, which I made myself to the north-east of the river Ashuapmouchouan, I am inclined to believe that there is a considerable tract of good land in that direction. The best proof of the excellence of the climate is supplied by the success of the settlers actually established in the township of Roberval, adjoining the Indian reserve. The summer temperature is about the same as that of Quebec, with this difference, however, that north-east winds are little felt, and are almost as mild as those from the south-west. The cold in winter is very intense, a circumstance very probably due to the extensive tracts of burnt land situated to the north and north-west.

The sole means to develop the resources of this important part of the Saguenay, is to open roads, firstly between Chicoutimi and the north-western part of Lake St. John, and later on, if the undertaking be considered practicable, between the lake and one of the parishes of the county of Quebec.

*(P. A. Tremblay, 1st May, 1882.)*

### **Township of Demeules.**

The central part, however, which includes about one-third of the surveyed area, is almost unfit for agricultural purposes, being stony and rocky.

The first part, shown on the plan, is not what might be called hilly, though very irregular, with a growth of cypress, red birch, wild-cherry and other stunted shrubs. At the best, it could only be classed as wood land.

The second part, shown on the plan as a subdivision of the first is a burnt track of land, unfit for colonization and valueless, at least for the present.

The north-east, north-west and south-east parts, being the two-thirds or remainder of the area surveyed, are of a superior and rich clay soil, more especially the north-west portion which is also very level and without any obstruction to colonization, besides being covered with a variety of timber.

White spruce is abundant and can be converted into merchantable timber. Cypress is large and plentiful and can also be advantageously used.

To sum up, the two-thirds of the land surveyed are of good quality and fit for colonization purposes, while the remainder is not.

(*G. B. du Tremblay*, 12th October, 1885.)

#### **County of Chicoutimi—Alma Island.**

The surface of the island is not perfectly level; it is not without a few ups and down, but, nevertheless, I consider it a fine level tract, and apart from a few rocks met with along the rear line of the first range and the rear line of the fifth range, a plough would pass anywhere. The soil in general is a fine loam sometimes mixed with grey marl. In a few instances, the first stratum is vegetable mould, and a few inches below is found clay; the only swamp I met with lies between numbers two and five of the second range and extends for about ten chains to the north. The stratum of black mould on the surface is eight or nine inches in thickness. The timber is generally large and tall. On the north side, it consists of black and white birch, white and grey spruce, fir, brushwood of all descriptions, cedar, ash and alder; on the south side, a mountain covered with ash is also met; white birch is not so often seen, but all other sorts are; black spruce is scarce.

(*E. A. Duberger*, 8th March, 1864.)

Alma Island is one of the finest portions of the County of Chicoutimi. It is generally low and well wooded. The soil consists of rich loam mixed with clay. I am satis-



FRENCH CANADIAN HOME-STEAD AT ST. PRIME.



fied that there are not two hundred acres of worthless land in this island. With all these advantages, it will be a long time before it is inhabited, owing to the difficulty of communications by the Grand Discharge, especially when the waters are high, which is generally the case after two days of rain.

On the north side of the Grand Discharge the banks are steep and rocky from number one to number ten.

The height of the banks varies from number 1 to number forty-nine. In some places the soil seems poor, but it becomes better some distance north of the bank.

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### **Townships of Dalmas and Taillon.**

I have the honor to submit the following report touching the lands surveyed by me to the north of Lake St. John, in the townships of Dalmas and Taillon. :—

The ground surveyed covers a superficies of 39,952 acres and 8 perches, and is situated on the mean latitude of 48° 45' and 40° 45' longitude.

I am happy to be able to inform you that this tract, together with the surrounding region, is superior to all the arable land previously surveyed by me. I can state that, both in point of richness of soil and extent, it is a marvellous country, superior to all the rest of the Lake St. John district; it is, perhaps, the most fertile and advantageous section of the whole Province, and from it the Government may look for fine results in the development of colonization.

It would be out of place to here enter into the details of the field book, relative to the quality of the soil, timber, topography, &c., because the surface is uniformly flat, the soil a strong loam, and growing all such large timber as is peculiar to a vegetable or alluvial soil.

A small part, however, on the front of the township, as indicated on the plan, is of yellow mould. Here only, on this space of ground, grow cypress and red pine in abundance and to a large size. The other woods of which the forest is composed everywhere else, are white spruce, tamarac, black spruce, white balsam, which grows in cold, wet land, and another species of balsam (*Pinus Lambertina*) which attains enormous dimensions. White spruce is the commonest wood and frequently reaches 35 inches in diameter. There is a good deal of aspen and Canada poplar



in the neighborhood of the Little Peribonca, which is of fine dimensions.

The hardwood bush is composed of enormous birches, white and red *bouleau*, ash, cherry, soft maple, black willow, &c.

The large trees, of which the forest is composed, are remarkably open, but at their feet there is a vigorous growth of currant, gooseberry and other small bushes. Fortunately, in pleasant contrast with other parts of the Saguenay, fire has not yet run through these fine forests.

I never saw a better watered country. There is a multitude of brooks and small rivers flowing over strong clay and in very low beds, but their banks are not steep and they have no beaches. The falls of the large rivers are capable of furnishing extensive hydraulic powers.

This fertile, picturesque and promising tract extends for about 45 miles to the north. I myself saw Lake St. John 14 miles distant from where I stood, and the immense plain extends without a break in all directions as far as the eye can reach. We can count upon having an area of some 600 square miles, to the north of Lake St. John, of perfectly level and fertile arable land, capable of forming fifty parishes.

The climate is magnificent, the vast surface of Lake St. John playing an important rôle in modifying the temperature. Another cause which operates in favor of the temperature of this region, from the standpoint of the ripening of cereals, is the length of the days in summer.

Such is the character of the climate and the fertility of the soil of this vast region of Lake St. John that it should become a great colonization centre, especially with the aid of the new railway and a steamboat performing a regular service on Lake St. John.

(*Geo.-B. du Tremblay*, 25th October, 1887.)

Mr. Du Tremblay's report is confirmed by the experience of Mr. B. A. Scott, who opened a farm on the Peribonca, in connection with his lumber business and who obtained last year the enormous yield of two hundred and fifty bushels of potatoes from less than an acre.

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LAKE BOUCHETTE.



### **Township of Delisle.**

The description of the country along the west line of the township does not vary much; it is generally uneven. The soil is composed of fine clay with a marl sub-soil, the timber consisting of fir, black and white birch, brushwood of all descriptions, including a mountain covered with ash, merchantable spruce, and white pine.

(*Geo. B. Du Tremblay*, 12th October, 1885.)

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### **Township of DeQuen.**

The part of the township of DeQuen which I surveyed, in rear of the fourth range, between lake Bouchette and the Metabetchouan river, has a superficies of 35,879 acres.

I am happy to inform you that this township of about 100 square miles is, as a whole, adapted to cultivation, wooded with fine timber, and saleable as farm lots.

This township is watered by the river Metabetchouan, river Noire, the river à Prudent, the Noisy river (*Qui mène du train*), lake St. Paul, and by several splendid brooks. There are several mill sites on the Metabetchouan river. The lakes generally abound in fish. Their waters are pure and they occupy a total superficies of 917 acres, 3 rods and 38 perches.

The squatters who have made some clearings in the fifteenth range, as well as the settlers on the banks of lake Bouchette, speak favorably of the climate.

This tract, which is actually the most important of the entire valley of lake St. John, by reason of its position on the line of the railway, will before long be a centre of settlement on account of the railway.

(*Geo. B. Du Tremblay*, 26th June, 1886.)

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The greater part of ranges eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve and thirteen is generally composed of strong loam or other fertile vegetable soils. There are a few rocks in some places; but there are no mountains or any other obstruction. The ground is level or rolling.

The forest fires which rage from season to season cause more destruction and do more damage to the Saguenay country than does the lumbering industry. The frequency of these fires has also for injurious result to destroy the organic matter in the soil.

(*Geo. B. Du Tremblay*, 7th August, 1886.)

### **Township of Dolbeau.**

The banks of the river are everywhere low, and consist exclusively of strong loam. They are covered with spruce, fir, elm, ash, aspen, black and white birch, &c. Not a single rock is seen, and the ground, which is flat and level, is of great value for agricultural purposes. The forest is splendid. In the last mentioned part of my survey, I specially noticed a great quantity of spruce, suitable for logs; also some pine. I saw no mountains.

The banks of the river Mistassini, generally low except opposite the Grosse Isle, consist of strong loam. The finest forest covers both shores. I saw a great quantity of white pine on the right bank, and one spot, near the centre line, is literally covered with the same.

The banks of the river are low and wholly of strong loam. There is not a single rock, so that, considering the fertility of the soil, this river may be said to traverse one of the finest regions in the world.

The forest is fine and abundant and composed of elm, ash, Canadian aspen, poplar, currant-bushes, large black birch, white birch, &c.

Altogether this is a very picturesque place, and farm lots are greatly in demand at the present time.

(*G. B. Du Tremblay*, 2nd May, 1888.)

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### **Township of Dufferin.**

The land opened up by the rear line is of good quality, generally level and the soil composed of a stiff clay covered here and there by yellow mould. It is also equally good in the 5th, 6th and 7th ranges, to the north-west of the central line. The growth of timber, both hard and soft, in these ranges, is from 25 to 30 years old. The old trunks of trees found in different places prove that all these lands were originally richly wooded in hard and soft timber of large dimensions, the same as on the lands traversed by the lines drawn on the opposite side of the central line, where the fires have not reached.

Wild fruit trees are found everywhere, such as cherry, currant, wild grapes, pembina and mascouabina (mountain ash). Roads could be opened through all the ranges profitably.

Throughout the whole course of my survey, I found the

land through which I have run lines to be excellent, being everywhere a good stiff mould, often overlaying a layer of rich yellow mould over clay, and in some places a layer of coarse sand over clay. Everywhere the land is level and free from rocks.

I consider this township to be superior to all the others in this territory, as regards soil and climate. The lands are covered with hard and soft wood of good growth, birch, elm, ash, poplar, spruce, fir and some pine, wherever the fire has not passed.

As I have already stated, the climate of the township of Dufferin is finer than that of all the other townships near Lake St. John, frosts occurring later in the autumn.

(*Gédeon Gagnon*, 25th March and 17th July, 1879.)

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### **Township of Kenogami.**

A large portion of the land which I surveyed in these two townships is fit for cultivation and advantageous for colonization. The soil is not generally composed of alluvium. It is rather a mixture of yellow and grey or black earth, often mixed with sand. Such land is sufficiently fertile, and its first preparation for cultivation is not costly, on which account it is often sought for by settlers. There are, however, some fine alluvial lands on each side of the river Bédard, from the seventh to the tenth range inclusive. The river Dorval also runs in great part through a fine valley of clayey and marley soil, traversing some remarkably beautiful meadows covered with wild hay.

It is to be regretted that the fires which too often occur in the Saguenay region have destroyed a very large proportion of the timber which formerly enriched these lands. The birch, spruce and white pine which were so plentiful in this country are replaced by a new growth of white birch and poplar springing up among innumerable blackened and desolate-looking trunks of the former growth.

The Bédard and Dorval rivers with their tributaries have fine mill sites.

Several settlers have made here some small attempts at cultivation. Others have made more considerable improvements and sown grain. They appear satisfied with their success, and speak highly of the climate.

(*G. B. Du Tremblay*, 26th June, 1881.)

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### **Townships of Metabetchouan and Charlevoix.**

The soil in the sixth and seventh ranges of the township of Metabetchouan is very suitable for cultivation, being a rich yellow loam, and covered with a fine growth of hard and soft woods. In the fifth range, although rocky in some places, the land is susceptible of cultivation.

The residue of Charlevoix, comprising the seventh, sixth and fifth ranges, is equally fit for cultivation, being also a rich yellow earth, and very strong in different places, well timbered with hard and soft woods, and well drained, except along the river Ouiatchouan, in the fifth and fourth ranges, where the land is rocky for some distance.

From my own personal knowledge I can say that the climate is as favorable for agriculture here as on the lands around Lake St. John.

The timber has been nearly all destroyed by fire along the river Ouiatchouan in the fourth and fifth ranges, over an area of ten to twelve arpents on each side of the river.

It will be necessary to open a road along this river, from the settlements on St. John to the rear line of Charlevoix, and to continue it thence to Commissioners' lake, in order to colonize the lands in the townships of Charlevoix and Dablon and around the last named lake.

The road which was opened last summer in Metabetchouan allowed the new settlers to make considerable clearings in the sixth and seventh ranges, in which nearly all the lots will be sown next spring. It should, therefore, be continued as soon as possible across the township of DeQuen to Commissioners' lake in order to open this township to colonization. *(Gédéon Gagnon, 13th April, 1880.)*

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### **Township of Normandin.**

In order to comply exactly with the instructions which I had the honor of receiving, I went without delay to the principal outline of the township of Parent at its intersection with the river Tikouapee, on lot number forty-nine of the eighth range of this township.

The word Tikouapee means Andrew, and was giving in memory of an Indian of that name, who, with his family, lived near the mouth of the river.

The scaling of this river, very variable in its course, has been made with the greatest possible care, in order to com-



LAKE ST. JOSEPH - STEAMBOAT LANDING.





plete in a correct manner the subdivision of the seventy-six lots of nine chains fifty links forming the width of the township of Normandin.

The numerous turnings and windings of this river did not allow my operations to be carried on as expeditiously as I could have wished. However, I had the satisfaction of completing the subdivision of all the lots, which in the township of Normandin front on the river Tikouapee ; this was done before the thaw or breaking up of the ice.

The Government should come to the aid of the settlers by making every year considerable clearings on the Government reserves, employing for that purpose the poor settlers in this work, paying them generously, either with the produce or otherwise, raising the cattle necessary for farming, &c. If the whole were conducted with wisdom, order and economy, the Government would make as much profit as any other capitalist, while proving at the same time a protection and a providence for the surrounding population. If the Government thought proper to make such an experiment, it would soon be repaid by the sale of provisions, &c., and by the consciousness that they would have done such good service to colonization and to the brave pioneers of the forest. If to all this were added facilities of communication, wherever the want of such is felt, and if especially a railroad connecting Lake St. John with Quebec were built, then the Saguenay would have nothing to envy other places, being able to vie, in every respect, with no matter what part of the Province, for the success and prosperity of its own inhabitants.

(*P.-H. Dumais*, 2nd May, 1872.)

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In my last report, I gave you a precise idea of the value and importance of the townships of Albanel and Normandin from an agricultural point of view. The part, situated north-west of these townships, and which I explored lately, while scaling the river Tikouapee which crosses this section, consists generally of the same kind of soil as that of the townships above mentioned, viz : a greyish clay loam, &c., with alluvion in the low lands. A few rocks, met here and there, give now and then a hilly appearance to this vast flat of land. The prevailing kinds of timber are spruce, fir, white birch, cypress, aspen and alders in the low lands, with tamarac and a few very large pines.

The cypress generally grows on a sandy and barren soil ; here, on the contrary, there is not a grain of sand if I can judge of the soil by the numerous windfalls that disclose its nature at every step. This was a subject of astonishment to my party and for myself. But if the cypress really condescends to grow on poor soil, what would prevent it from doing so on a better kind ?.....The trees are of very good height and diameter.

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### **Townships of Parent and Normandin.**

The soil of the township of Parent is generally composed of a clay loam, covered in many places with a bed of sandy yellow clay.

Fire has several times ravaged a great part of the tract comprised between the rivers Ashuapmouchouan and Mistassini. A considerable quantity of good farming land appears to extend on each side of the Mistassini river, whose quiet flow seems to offer easy communication with the Lake St. John settlements.

At the extremity of the point formed by the rivers Mistassini and Ashuapmouchouan, there are beautiful wild meadows, also on the lots seventy-three and seventy-four of the third range, and on the little islands situated at the mouth of the river Tikouapee.

All the land within the limits of the township, and outside for a great distance, is generally very level ; apart from a few rocks that I remarked on the banks of the river, I did not find, on all the lands that I surveyed, a pebble as big as a marble.

(*P. A. Tremblay*, 13th June, 1854.)

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All the lots fronting the Mistassini river, with the exception of a few in the thirteenth and fourteenth ranges, are adapted to cultivation, and offer many advantages to new settlers from the proximity of the river, which is navigable from its first falls terminating at number forty-five of the seventeenth range ; it is the finest colonization road that we could wish for. The soil, being composed of hard clay and perfectly level, has retained the water abundantly supplied by the fall rains. At the end of the first mile, the timber changes for the better, the soil drains itself easily, and the moss disappears. The land consists of alluvion, loam and clay. A grey loam is seen in the banks of the streams. The

land continues thus as far as the fifth mile. From this point it gradually rises and becomes undulating on the direct course of the line; but this undulation is owing to the stream, which winds through the surrounding lands in a rather shallow bed, but yet sufficiently deep to form rivulets, which drain a great part of the moist lands around.

I was agreeably surprised at meeting, in Normandin especially, land of superior quality, as much in the appearance of the soil and timber as in the advantages—it offers to settlers—of perfect drainage and easy cultivation with the hoe.

On one of these burnt tracts, where wild hay grows in abundance (a significant fact, as in the other sections of the Saguenay, wherever there is burnt land, it is either noxious weeds or a new growth of trees that comes up), there is a space of several acres on which wild strawberries grow in profusion and quite undisturbed; the plants are bushy and the fruit is of more than the usual size. The person who gave me the information was worthy of belief, and said he crossed this land while exploring last summer in company with a number of others, in a part of the township of Normandin.

The Tikouapee river winds to the south-east of the township line, at a distance of one or two miles towards the middle of the line, and approaches it on reaching the western end.

Nothing is more charming than the valley of this stream. There is nothing like it in the Saguenay, not to speak of elsewhere. The gentle flow of its dark waters towards Lake St. John, the elms and the willows that shade its banks reflect as in a mirror their elegant trunks, with their long and waving branches. There is a growth of tall and evergreen hay at the foot of these elms which adds every year to the fertilizing mould. Wild vines creep and twine from tree to tree like ivy, and form a continuous shade.

There is nothing more inviting to the settler who sincerely wishes to become a land-clearer than these beautiful forests growing on well drained and slightly rolling land, with a rich and fertile soil. He would consider himself rich in owning a few acres of land fronting on the Tikouapee river.

On the ridge which skirts the valley on both sides of the river, the timber, which consists of spruce, birch, fir, aspen and a few pines, is of remarkable height and size; the

spruce especially being of sufficient size and quality to furnish to the trade over one hundred thousand saw logs. There are only a few white pine scattered here and there. Hunters have assured me that in the upper parts of the river, from forty to sixty miles back from Lake St. John, there are magnificent pine groves which cover a great stretch of land ; that the quality of the soil and the timber is everywhere the same—strong loam and mixed timber ; that there are no mountains or rocks ; and that the whole is nearly level, with an imperceptible slope towards the Lake.

In concluding this report, I may add that I am thoroughly convinced that the north-western part of the territory of Lake St. John constitutes the largest, the finest, most fertile and most advantageous field in every respect for the development of the patriotic cause of colonization.

(*P.-H. Dumais*, 31st January, 1872.)

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#### **Township of Racine.**

The township of Racine, lying between Lake St. John and the River Mistassini, forms a peninsula, the surface of which is absolutely level and regular, almost like that of the lake.

In the whole township there is neither mountain nor hill, rock nor boulder.

The whole peninsula, which seems to have been submerged by the waters of Lake St. John, is composed of alluvial sand, lightly covered here and there on the surface by a layer of grey or white sand, an inch or two in thickness.

The shores of the lake, and especially Point Mistassini, are low.

A considerable part of this township, as indicated on the plan, is submerged by the high water of Lake St. John ; but not every year. Within the limits of the land so submerged, there is a natural meadow, covered every year by a growth of wild hay, which is shown on the plan in its largest extent. This meadow may be utilized for cattle raising.

Messrs. Price & Co., have cut large quantities of pine, cypress and spruce logs here.

(*Arthur du Tremblay*, 6th June, 1883.)

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SAW MILL AT ROBERVAL, — ROBERVAL LUMBER CO.



### **Township of Roberval.**

All the lots are adapted to tillage and it will not be long before they are taken up by settlers, on account of the superior advantages which the quality of the soil and the proximity of Lake St. John lend to this locality, over the new townships to the north-west of the lake. The surface is generally level, and only slight undulations are met with, but all these favor the drainage of the land. The soil is a grey and yellow alluvial loam, covered by a layer of humus or black mould for a depth of four to eight inches. Except a few rocky spots, where the ground changes its level, there is very little loss on these lots.

(*P. J. C. Dumais*, 4th February, 1880.)

### **Township of Ross.**

In general, all these lands are adapted to cultivation, the soil in several places being a strong black loam.

The forest which covers them includes in many places merchantable timber, such as white spruce fit for making saw logs, tamarac and white birch. On the Oniatchouaniche and Iroquois rivers, there are also several mill sites, which I have been unable to indicate precisely on my plan. Lastly, the appearance of the country is magnificent, being generally free from mountains and offering great attractions to settlement.

(*Jean Maltais*, 24th December, 1884.)

### **Township of St. Hilaire.**

The township of St. Hilaire, situate to the east of the township of DeQuen, and in rear of the townships of Mézy, Caron and Metabetchouan, comprises a superficies of 37,000 acres.

I am happy to say that this township on the whole is suitable for colonization.

The valley of the *Belle Rivière*, the left bank of the Cedar lakes, and the right bank of the river Metabetchouan, in the first and third ranges, with a part of the second and fourth ranges, are considerable tracts of arable lands of the best quality, unobstructed by any rocks or mountains or anything disadvantageous.

This township being in close proximity to the Lake St. John railway, and having the advantage of a good colonization road, should, I think, be soon settled.

(*Arthur Du Tremblay*, 11th October, 1884.)



### Township of Signal.

Apart from a swamp of about fifty acres in superficies, on the lots in the neighborhood of the centre line, the two ranges which I have just subdivided are certainly magnificent in every respect ; soil composed of clay, wheat and alluvial land, timbered with birch, spruce, fir, white birch, pine, elm, ash and cedar, climate favorable on account of the proximity of Lake St. John, whose waters temper and check the early fall frosts, and in proximity to a saw mill, the property of the Messrs. Lindsay, on the Grammont river.  
(*P. H. Dumais*, 22nd February, 1869.)

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Near the Labarre line there are also small clearings in the second and third ranges.

This line runs certainly through the most beautiful land of Signal, and deserves to have a colonization road run through it to connect Lake St. John with the Alma and Hebertville roads. The land is level, well drained, and the quality of the soil superior in every respect.

(*P. H. Dumais*, 2nd July, 1870.)

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All this land in general is well suited to tillage ; a large extent of it was sown this spring, and the settlers are making new clearings. In approaching the Petite Décharge, however, the lots lose a great deal of their value ; rocks crop to the surface, leaving but little land fit for cultivation ; nevertheless all the lots are taken up.

(*P. H. Dumais*, 30th August, 1870.)

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The river Bedard offers fine sites for the construction of mills throughout the part of the township of Signal which it crosses ; the branches of this river water a considerable extent of the fourth, fifth and sixth ranges of Labarre.

(*P. A. Tremblay*, 28th November, 1865.)

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### Township of Simard.

I confined myself to the survey of the residue of the township of Simard, in which I laid out four ranges, that is to say, the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth, into lots.....

This part of the country is characterized by a total absence of rocks of any description, not even small stones, ex-

cept at the level of the river Shipshaw, and in some cases, though very rocky, at the level of the "Rivière aux Vases." The faces of the ravines formed by the water courses are composed of a light, slippery, whitish clay, from which circumstance "Rivière aux Vases" takes its name; its bed not having yet reached the rock, the water pouring from it into the Saguenay is always muddy, from the wearing of the clay through which it passes.

Other parts owing to slight depression in this almost too level country, are swampy, growing black spruce, red spruce and tamarack, such as a portion of the eighth range between the river Shipshaw and the centre line, and near the "Rivière aux Vases" towards the east outline; some parts of the ninth range, especially the rear, are swamps, or "savannes," almost open plains with very little wood, owing to this part being in the immediate vicinity of the foot of the range of hills bounding this plain to the north, and receiving all the drainage of the mountains, which cannot filter through the clay of the subsoil, or find access to the rivers from the level nature of these portions of land.

The rest of the township is, for the most part, a good sandy loam, growing birches, black birch, firs, aspen, spruce and poplar, in some places mixed with white maple and maple; cedar is found in many places in large quantities, and ash sometimes appears; in these cases the soil is a black mould.

(A. Wallace, 30th March, 1855.)

### **Township of Taché.**

This township, situated to the northward of the Saguenay river, between the townships of Delisle and Bourget, has an area of 40,752 square acres, of which at least the seven tenths are composed of arable land suitable for settlement.

Timber of every kind grows here in great abundance. The spruce has been cut into logs, but enough has been left to supply the settlers; there is no pine timber at present, but judging from the stumps and fragments strewn on the ground, I conclude it must have existed in large quantities.

There are some water powers which may be useful to the settlers hereafter.

(Geo. B. Du Tremblay, 29th November, 1879.)

### Townships of Taillon and Delisle.

After having traversed the above mentioned tract No. 1, in every direction for nearly a month, I became firmly convinced that it is, in every respect, most advantageously qualified for colonization. It also offers great facilities for carrying on every branch of industry, by means of the power supplied by the numerous streams, falls, &c.

The tract lying between the mouth of the river *Au Cochon* and that of the Peribonca rivers, as far as the falls on these latter, is so flat that in some places, when the snow melts, the waters remain a long time on the ground, and even, on some few patches of considerable size, retard the growth of the timber. It is on this account that it has been said by some that these lands are swampy, but this idea is erroneous.

The banks of the rivers Peribonca are from eighteen to twenty-five feet in height. I found here many different species of wood : balsam, spruce, white birch, yellow birch, elm, ash, mountain ash and alder, the white spruce predominating. They are all of very fine growth, indicating a rich soil. Wherever I went throughout the whole tract, I did not find a single rock.

Both the Grand and Little Peribonca rivers are quite navigable up to the first falls.

The lands bordering on them for a distance of ten miles above the falls bear the same general aspect as those above described. The soil there also is in great part alluvium. There are, however, some light elevations, where the soil is richer, though of the same composition. In the same portion adjoining the township of Delisle, these elevations are more marked, and contain a lighter rich yellow soil, upon which pine grew plentifully in former times. The woods now standing are the same as those mentioned above, the merchantable timber being chiefly spruce. There are no rocks to be seen.

From the rivers *Au Cochon* and *A la Pipe*, going towards the east, the land is still of the same character, except that the elevations are still greater; and while the soil upon them is fit for cultivation they will always remain an obstacle in the way of farming operations.

It will be readily perceived that this tract offers great advantages to colonization; it is, in my opinion, the finest part of the country around Lake St. John.

(*John Langlois*, 13th November, 1883.)

### **Township of Taillon.**

The greater part of the township is composed of a soil of the best quality, notably in the part east of the central line.

The soil of Point Peribonka, west of the central line, is of sand on the surface, with a subsoil of white clay at a depth of ten or twelve inches, while a part of the township east of the central line is composed of alluvial soil of the best quality.

The superficies of the land surveyed is 40,727 acres.

(*P. Tremblay*, 28th May, 1885.)

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### **Townships of Tremblay and Falardeau.**

In the upper portion, north of the centre line of the township of Simard, and west of the centre line of the township of Falardeau, the intermediate neighborhood of lakes has contributed to the formation of low and moist lands, covered pretty thickly with timber of only middling growth, such as are met with in the second and third ranges on lots 7 to 15, inclusive. Apart from this small space, where the soil is more or less fit for cultivation, and a small mountain on the banks of lake Charles, to the south, all the land which I surveyed in this locality is very good and may be settled upon with advantage. The soil, which is sedimentary, is composed of a black and yellow sandy earth, overlying the calcareous clay which is met with at various depths.

On the central line in the first range to the south and east of lake Charles, there is a fine quarry of limestone covering several lots.

In passing through this tract, one cannot help recognizing how rich the forest has been; the stumps, the cuttings and the *débris* of trees strewn around are so many evidences to attest it. From the ancient appearance of this *débris*, covered as it is with layers of moss of different ages, it is not difficult to believe that lumbering operations have been carried on in these forests for over thirty years; and this very year there have been over fifteen thousand logs cut in them. To give you an idea of the size of the timber growing here, it will be sufficient to tell you that I measured some cedars of forty-eight inches diameter at the stump.

(*J. O. Tremblay*, 15th May, 1885.)

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### Lake Abbitibbi.

Lake Abbitibbi is surrounded on all sides by level clay land. At a good many points, however, the rock rises above the level of the clay. This is especially the case along the south side of the upper lake, where the dioritic hills, already described, approach the lake; but even here there is generally a strip of clay land along the shore. To the north, and especially to the north-westward, the clay level seems almost unbroken, and it is well known that it extends in this direction to the shores of Hudson's Bay.

Several acres of this clay soil are cultivated at the Hudson Bay Company's post at Abbitibbi, and with satisfactory results. The only crop grown at present is potatoes; but I was informed by the man who has charge of the farming operations (a French Canadian, who has been more than thirty years at Abbitibbi, but was brought up as a farmer near Sorel, in the province of Quebec,) that several other crops, including wheat, had been tried in former years, and with such results that he is inclined to insist that all the ordinary cereals can be cultivated as successfully at Abbitibbi as on the St. Lawrence. Such an opinion of a man who has been for so many years practically engaged in the cultivation of the soil, is worth recording, and ought to be reliable.

Indian corn is grown at more than one locality near the head of lake Temiscamingue, and is said to ripen well. I am able, personally, to testify to this, as I was shown some good ripe ears, which had been grown during the summer of 1872, on the farm of Mr. Angus McBride, at the head of the lake.

(*Walter McQuat*, May, 1873.)

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### Lake Edward.

A few mountains, it is true, jut out to the lake, but their slopes are pretty gentle. Adding to the valleys which they form a superficies of from two and a half to three miles, which the Island of lake Edward can give, and we get in this region several thousand acres of arable land. The breadth of the lake varies from half a mile to three miles, and the water is very deep at a few feet only from the banks.

(*R. Têtu*, 12th November, 1872.)

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LAKE EDWARD.



### **La Tuque District.**

It may certainly be supposed, that the lands which we now cultivate in the county of Chicoutimi were formerly the bed of Lake St. John, and that the beautiful and fertile valley of the Croche served as a passage for these waters towards the St. Lawrence, by a channel quite different from that which they now follow, and joined the waters of the St. Lawrence more directly than they now do at Tadousac. This may suffice to show clearly that the valley of Lake St. John is not a basin with no outlet towards the west, as was at first thought, and surrounded on all sides by the lofty chain of the Laurentides, which made the opening of communications very difficult and indeed impossible for a railway, and isolated this fine valley from that of the St. Lawrence and of the St. Maurice, by a space of more than a hundred miles of unfruitful and barren land, altogether unfit for purposes of colonization.

The valleys of the Ouiatchouan, Bostonnais, Batiscan, Little Bostonnais and the Croche, which I have explored, contain nearly a million acres of arable land, with half a million acres included in the county of Chicoutimi. This is much more than sufficient to interest the Government and the friends of colonization to favor, and at the same to help, the settlement of this vast domain comprised within the province of Quebec, and which may so largely contribute to its advancement and prosperity.

(*P. H. Dumais*, 4th September, 1874.)

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### **Rivers Mistassibi, Au Rat and Wassiemska and lands in their vicinity.**

In obedience to instructions, dated 18th January last, relating to the survey of the rivers Mistassibi, au Rat and Wassiemska, I have the honor to make the following report:—

The Indians of Lake St. John are of opinion that the river Mistassibi is larger, having several large tributaries more than the Mistassini, and I have myself observed that its volume of water at this season is quite as considerable as that of the latter. It drains that vast plateau, stretching northwards from Lake St. John, and which, from the neighborhood of the Ouiatchouanish, has the appearance of a boundless plain. At the mouth of the Mistassibi this pla-



teau is 75 feet above the river, but this elevation decreases as the rapids and falls are surmounted. The largest of these is found at the end of the first mile, and brings us thirty feet nearer to the level of the plateau.

On the sixth mile another fall raises the river nearly to the height of the plateau above mentioned; and from there to the eleventh mile the land is generally level or slightly undulating in some places, and no obstacles are met with, two rapids, following the steps of the plateau, raise up to about 120 feet above Lake St. John, a height which is increased by 30 feet more on the sixteenth mile. The current of the river is gentle, its width from ten to eighteen chains, and its depth ten to twelve feet—during freshets, reaching in the passage up the river. No further obstacles are encountered in ascending the river as far as the thirty-fifth mile, where, hemmed in between rocks and broken up by detached masses of stone, its peaceable course is more brusquely interrupted by a fall of ten feet on the thirty-seventh mile, a small rapid on the thirty-eighth mile, and then we arrive at the last one in the part of the river scaled by me. Above this fall the river resumes its peaceable course in a nearly northerly direction, and maintains a width of eight to fifteen chains for a long distance.

Judging from the explorations already made here and there on one bank or the other of the river Mistassibi, I have come to the conclusion that at least three quarters of the land watered by it is fit for cultivation, being largely composed of gray and yellow earth and clay mixed with sand at the surface, with an alluvial subsoil of great depth, not rocky except in a few places where the rocks rise through the surface to break the nearly uniform level of the plateau. These rocks are higher and of greater extent above the thirtieth mile, and seem to disappear above the fortieth mile, on the west side of the river. The ground is covered with timber of all the varieties found in the valley of Lake St. John, except cedar. The age of the forest is about eighty years, and the remarkable size and height of the trees indicate a very rich soil. There remains no trace of the old forest, destroyed by fire.

For these reasons, there is not much merchantable timber near the banks of this river. A few hundred pine and a few thousand spruce trees are about all that could be got there at present. In about forty or fifty years, if not ravaged by fire in the interval, this new growth will furnish a large

supply of timber. But the advantages which these splendid lands offer to settlers are not likely to remain long unknown ; and I have no doubt that, were there better means of reaching them, the young forest would soon give place to fine fields of wheat.

The river au Rat, another tributary of the Mistassini, flows in from the same side as the Mistassibi (the north-east) at a distance of a mile above the latter.

The fire of 1870 destroyed the fine forests which had covered the banks as far as the fifteenth mile. Beyond that point, the woods comprise the same varieties as are found on the Mistassini. The only obstacles to the navigation of the part of this river scaled by me are a few rapids, which are not noticed in running down the river during the freshets. There are five of these rapids in the first sixteen miles ; the water being unbroken for the remaining fourteen miles, and as much further above.

I am firmly convinced that the greater part of this region comprised within the vast basin surrounding Lake St. John, especially on the north side, that is to say, a tract of at least four millions of acres in superficies, is composed of lands of the best description for agricultural purposes as well on account of the richness of the soil as the mildness of the climate. In order to establish a sufficiently close comparison, I think I may say, without fear of being taxed with exaggeration, that we have in the valley of this lake an area of fine rich land of sufficient extent to support in comfort as large a population as that inhabiting the finest part of the valley of the St. Lawrence—that occupied by the counties of Richelieu, Yamaska, Verchères, Bagot, St. Hyacinthe, Rouville, St. John, Napierville and Laprairie. The alluvial lands of Lake St. John are as large in extent and of greater depth than those watered by the rivers Richelieu and Yamaska ; while the climate is not inferior to that of those old districts.

(*P. H. Dumais*, 24th June, 1878.)

### **Metabetchouan River.**

Forest fires have swept a considerable portion of the east side of the river and part of the west side has been burnt over also, which is now overgrown with white birch and poplar. The soil is exceedingly rich on both sides of the river, being generally a heavy clay bottom covered with a

rich loam of darkish brown colour. In the township of DeQuen the soil is very good along the river, and the unsurveyed land on the opposite or east side appears to be very good also.

**Timber**—There is a considerable quantity of spruce, and some excellent groves of tamarac on either side of the river. The old *brulés* are covered with a thick growth of white birch, poplar and fir, and as there is no scarcity of water-power, there would be no more promising site for the manufacture of pulp or the different other manufacturing purposes for which the above mentioned varieties of timber are sought. (Henry O'Sullivan, 8th March, 1887.)

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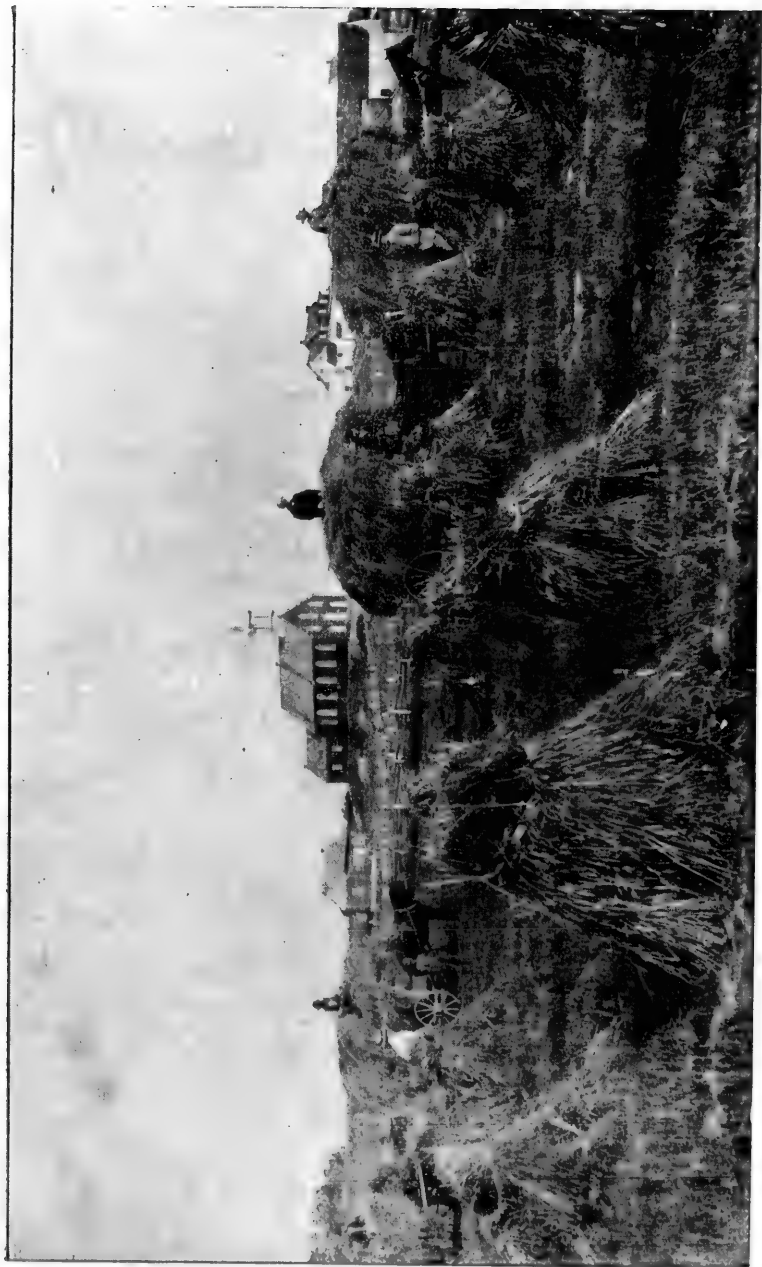
**Extract from the Report of the Commissioner of Crown  
Lands for the year 1889, respecting the country  
generally between Lake St. John and the  
Upper Ottawa.**

By analysing the reports of surveys and explorations we find that in rear of the mountain chain which extends from Cap Tourmente to the Ottawa, a little above Hull, there is a vast plain which extends eastwards by the valley of the Mattawin river to the neighborhood of the St. Maurice. The general level of this plain is not more than 250 or 300 feet above the sea, and its uniformity is only broken at rare intervals by small ridges or rocky mounds. On reaching the Mattawin region the general direction of this plain inclines to the north-east and continues, by the fine plateau between the rivers Trenche and Windigo, to Lake St. John, where it merges into that magnificent valley bounded by the mountains bordering on the Saguenay to the north-east.

The length of this zone of level ground, most of which is of remarkable fertility, is nearly 400 miles and its average width is about sixty, making an area of 24,000 miles or 15,360,000 square acres.

The region drained by that portion of the Ottawa between its sources and Lake Temiscamingue as far as the height of land forms another plateau 600 or 700 feet above the level of the sea, generally flat and containing much arable land both as regards soil and climate, separated on the south by a range of hilly land from the great plain above described.

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HARVEST.—ST. PRIME.



To give an idea of the success obtained by industrious settlers in the Lake St. John district, we publish the following information obtained from the *curés* of the various parishes.

#### SAINT-JÉRÔME.

Claude Villeneuve came from Ste. Agnès, County of Charlevoix, in 1862, with four hundred dollars; bought 350 acres of land at St. Jérôme; has now about 250 under cultivation. He gets on an average 1,000 bushels of grain, chiefly wheat, 4,500 bundles of hay, 250 to 300 bushels of potatoes. He would not sell his property now for less than \$7,000.00.

Alexandre Boily, also came from Ste. Agnès in 1862, without any capital, with only his hoe, his axe and seven children, the eldest ten years of age. He bought a farm of 340 acres which he only finished paying for in the past few years. Has 200 acres under cultivation. He gets 850 bushels of grain, chiefly wheat, from 2,000 to 2,500 bundles of hay and from 250 to 300 bushels of potatoes. His property is valued at \$4,000.00.

Want of assistants prevents him from having the whole under cultivation.

#### CHAMBORD.

Louis Villeneuve came here from Murray Bay in 1864. He had no capital beyond his axe and his courage. He took 100 acres which yield, on an average, 100 bushels of wheat, 90 of peas, 140 of oats, 110 of buckwheat and 2,000 bundles of hay. His property is now worth over \$2,800.00.

Sabin Gagnon also came from Murray Bay in 1864, with a capital of \$200.00. He settled his five sons on 400 acres of land, 320 of which are under cultivation. The crop is 145 bushels of wheat; 115 of peas; 205 of rye; 108 of buckwheat; 490 of oats and 3,400 bundles of hay. His property is valued at \$7,000.00.

François Sasseville came from Baie St. Paul in 1864, without any means. He has cleared 125 acres of land, from which he gets 120 bushels of wheat; 90 of peas; 50 of buckwheat; 45 of barley; 160 of oats and 3,000 bundles of hay. His property is valued at \$3,000.00.

#### ST. GÉDÉON.

Joseph Lessard came from Ste. Agnès twenty-four years ago with a capital of from \$500.00 to \$600.00. He has 280 acres under cultivation, and has nine children settled. His property is valued at \$5,250, and he gets an average of 1000 bushels of grain every year.

Basile Barrette came to St. Gédéon in 1872, with \$2,700.00. He now has 300 acres under cultivation, and gets an average crop of 1,300 bushels. Value of his property, \$6,500.00.

#### ST. PRIME.

Jean Legaré settled at St. Prime in 1871, with a family of six young children. Up to that time he had worked as a labourer in the Messrs. Hall's mill at Montmorency Falls, Beauport. He had no means when he arrived here, and he now owns 200 acres of land worth \$4000.00. He has no debts. Last year he lent over \$200.00 on mortgages. He owns 2 horses, 8 cows, 15 sheep, and this year he has bought a mower. He has all kinds of improved implements.

Alfred Doré settled at St. Prime in 1870; he was so poor that he was obliged to hire out to others. His only property was his axe. At present, thanks to his labour and energy, he has 250 acres of land, valued at over \$2000.00. He is about to purchase 100 acres more. His family consists of 12 children. He had contracted some debts, but will finish paying

them off during the summer. He has 2 horses, 8 cows, 12 sheep and all the necessary implements.

ST. FÉLICIEN.

Antoine Hébert came here 13 years ago from St. Grégoire, County of Nicolet, with no means whatever beyond his courage. He now has 300 acres under cultivation, valued at \$5.250. His crop consisted of 800 bushels of grain, 2400 bundles of hay and 400 bushels of potatoes.

ST. MÉTHODE.

Onésime Painchaud came from Somerset, in 1880, with a capital of \$400.00. He took 300 acres of land, 60 of which are now under cultivation. His property is valued at \$2000.00, besides 52 head of cattle and farm implements. Last year his crop consisted of 325 bushels of grain, 85 being wheat, 250 of potatoes and 2,800 bundles of hay.

Alcide Hébert came from Ste. Sophie d'Halifax in 1881, with a capital of \$700.00. He took 200 acres of land covered with timber. He now has 80 acres under cultivation and his property is valued at \$2,500.00, besides 64 head of cattle and the farm implements. Last year his crop was 425 bushels of grain, 75 being wheat; 280 bushels of potatoes and 6,000 bundles of hay.

Besides the above two examples there are many others of settlers who have come to St. Méthode without any means and whose properties are worth a thousand, fifteen hundred and even two thousand dollars after some years of labour on them.

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### REPORTS OF THE DELEGATES.

In the year 1889 the Board of Directors of the Lake St. John Railway Company asked the clergy of the various parishes in the province to send delegates to obtain information for themselves on the spot, and to report their opinion as to the resources and advantages of the Lake St. John country. We give the following extracts from the reports:—

*From the delegates of Victoriaville, Arthabaska.*

“The two delegates from my parish who visited the Lake St. John district last autumn came back delighted with their trip, which will have the effect of sending several of my parishioners to that part of the country as soon as your branch lines east and west are built.”

U. TESSIER, curé. 16th April, 1890.

*From the delegates of Ste. Anne de la Pérade.*

“The two delegates, after visiting Roberval, went as far as Normandin, St. Méthode and St. Cyrille. They came back delighted with their trip and are full of praise of the country they visited. Both are intelligent farmers. They admit that the best farms are to the north of the lake, and that if they had children to settle they would send them there.

Unfortunately our young men prefer to work by the day, to live in penury rather than make an energetic effort and settle upon a farm which would assure them an honest and happy existence. Let us however hope that the efforts now being made on all sides will eventually induce our labourers to seek a comfortable home in the Lake St. John region. Such is my earnest desire.”

B. C. BOCHET, priest. 25th April, 1890.

*From Rimouski.*

"The two delegates whom I sent last autumn to Lake St. John came back delighted ; so much so that one of them left me this spring to take a farm in that country."

J. O. SIMARD, priest, curé. 15th April, 1890.

*From Louiseville.*

"Mr. F. X. Masse, jeweller, and Mr. Bellemare went to Lake St. John last autumn. The former visited Roberval, Chambord and Hébertville. He is delighted with his trip. He says that the soil is of the best for the growth of hay and cereals.

The excellence of the soil, the salubrity of the climate and the affability of the people of the place pleased Mr. Bellemare so much that he started two months later to go and settle at Roberval.

Mr. Masse tells every one that the Lake St. John valley is a country with a bright future for every Canadian who wishes to obtain an honorable position."

O. H. LACERTE, priest, vicar. 17th April, 1890.

*From St. Paul, Chester.*

"My delegates visited the parishes of St. Prime, St. Félicien, St. Méthode and Normandin and found that settlers could establish themselves with advantage at Lake St. John \* \* \* \* \*

Even if their trip should have only the effect of arresting the tide of emigration which I saw, with regret, setting in the direction of Minnesota, I would still congratulate myself upon having sent those two delegates. I flatter myself with the hope that, in the near future, those of my parishioners who wish to settle in new parishes will go to Lake St. John. You have no idea of the interest displayed by those who visited the delegates on their return and how anxious they were for information of all kinds.

I congratulate you on your excellent idea of organizing that excursion and also upon the zeal you have displayed in the cause of colonization. Excursions of this kind are well calculated to attract public attention to the Lake St. John country, especially in years when the crop is abundant."

J. B. H. BELLEMARE, priest. 19th April, 1890.

*From Port Daniel.*

"For a person accustomed to judge of the nature of farming land by the quality and size of the timber on it, there would be some danger of making a mistake in several townships where the trees seem to indicate that the soil is poor. But by studying the composition of the soil we find the elements which reward the true farmer for his labours.

The appointment of a director of colonization is a great thing for the Lake St. John district, for those who came there formerly, at Roberval for instance, were sometimes at the mercy of people who were interested in the information they gave. The consequences of insufficient information are most disastrous, considering the various conditions of those who visit a place with the intention of settling there. Some want an uncleared lot and they want to know where they can procure such lots on favourable conditions. Others want a cleared lot with a house, buildings, &c., and they want to be shewn a property which meets their views. Otherwise their trip is useless and their reports deter those who might be disposed to follow them.

I visited the Lake St. John district myself and what I say of it is the result of my rapid inspection of the parishes of Roberval, St. Prime and



St. Félicien, which I visited in several directions. My visit has not yet decided any settler to go from here to Lake St. John, for our coast requires *bona fide* settlers more than any other place and our lands are at least as good, but to all who wished to know my views I said that that region has a future before it and deserves to be encouraged.

I am pleased with the trip which made me acquainted with a new corner of our province now connected with the large centres by a railway which has cost many efforts to build but which has succeeded so well.

I therefore wish your company all the success which it deserves for its zeal and its results corresponding with its efforts for the settlement of the fine valley of Lake St. John.

AUGUSTIN GAGNON, priest, curé. 15th April, 1890.

### *From Kamouraska.*

"The delegates whom I sent to Lake St. John have conscientiously performed their mission and gave me their report which I afterwards communicated to my parishioners.

The delegates visited the whole of the township of Normandin, St. Prime and its vicinity. They found the farms splendid but they advise settlers to go to Lake St. John with some capital so as to allow of effectively undertaking the clearing of the land.

A worthy farmer of my parish intends to go to Lake St. John with five sons who are all able to work on a farm. They have a capital of fifteen hundred dollars which they wish to spend on their lots. Moreover, an experienced merchant intends to transfer his business to Roberval and to take up farming for the benefit of his children. I have no doubt that these families will be followed by others.

P. E. BEAUDET, priest, curé. 21st April, 1890.

### *From L'Islet.*

The bad state of the roads and heavy rains did not allow the delegates to carry out their programme. They could only visit St. Louis and St. Jérôme, but they asked many questions of the residents and were able to form some idea of the place.

The soil seemed to be extraordinarily rich and very suitable for the growth of forage, cereals and vegetables. What they saw was much better than that of our country parts.

They were struck with the spirit which seems to animate the settlers of Lake St. John. How satisfied they seem to be with their lot, how they love their country, how they feel no regret for what they have left behind and how glad they are at having had the courage to tear themselves away from their friends to seek the means of bringing up and settling their children.

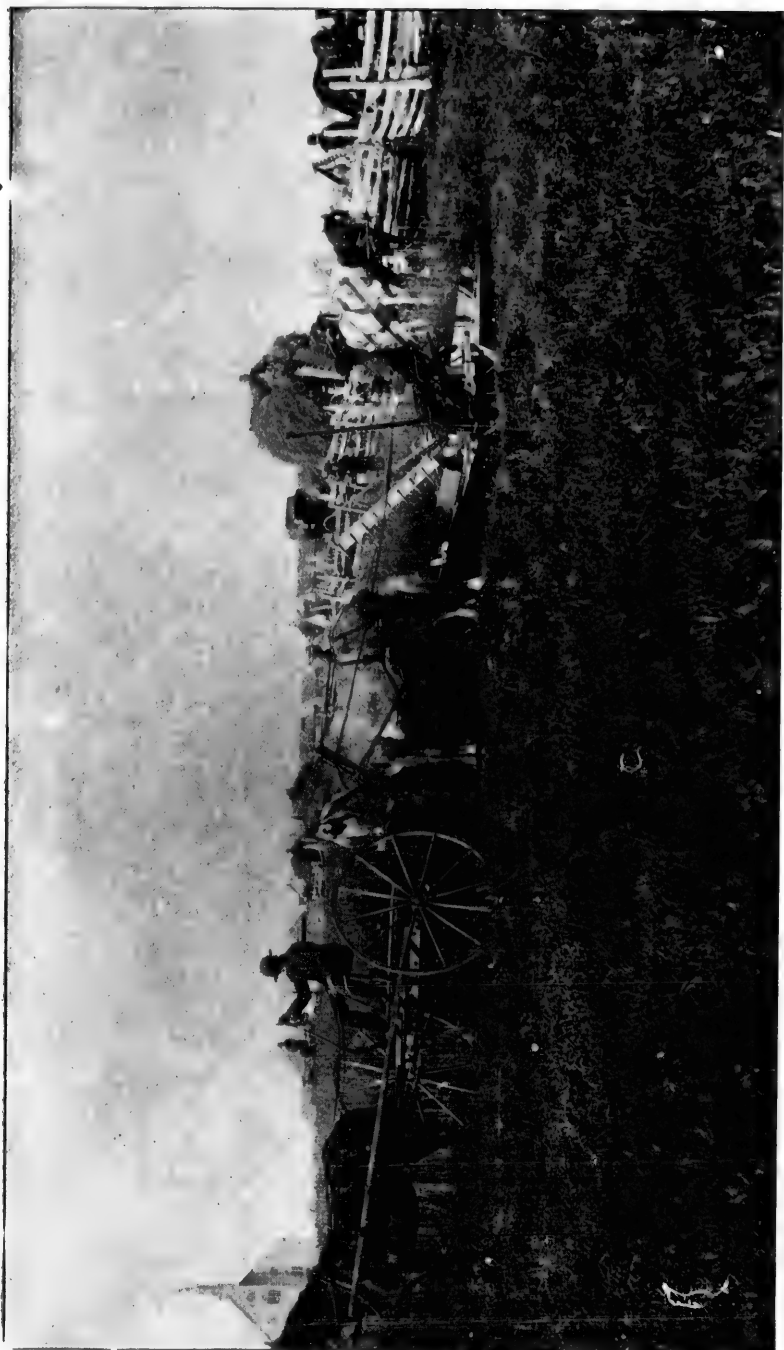
CHARLES BACON, priest. 1st May, 1890.

### *From St. Cyrille, L'Islet*

The two delegates whom I had selected to visit the Lake St. John valley were delighted with their trip. They were full of praise of the richness of the soil, the beauty of the forests and the scenery. They made a report on their trip which I enclose herewith.

Our young people here seemed at first rather pleased with the idea of clearing new land but when spring time comes they have to follow the current and go to the brick-yards in the United States, where they lose their health and their future. When will our young men understand this?...

M. J. FILLION, priest, curé. 27th April, 1890.



HARVEST.—ST. JEROME.



*Extract from the report of the St. Cyrille delegates.*

We went to Roberval direct and the next day in going through the parishes of St. Prime and St. Félicien we observed some places where the soil was too sandy for cultivation, but as a rule the soil is good. We were told that at Normandin the soil is still richer than in these two parishes. On returning from our trip we declared and we again declare that the Lake St. John valley is advantageous for settlers, because there are no rocks or boulders and because the country is not mountainous.

Of course there are here, like elsewhere, obstacles to overcome but there is nevertheless a good chance for any settler who wishes to go there.

ANICET LORD,

St. Cyrille, 20th April, 1890.

IRÉNÉE LORD.

*Extract from the report of the delegates of St. Etienne de Lauzon.*

From the interviews we had with farmers in certain localities, it seems that the soil throughout the whole extent of the Lake St. John valley is of the same quality as where we saw it, very fertile and requiring but little expense to farm profitably. There are hardly any ditches.

We thought we noticed that if the inhabitants of the Lake St. John district were as laborious as they might be they would be comfortably off. They sow, with harrowing, eight, nine and ten years in succession, and after that period they still get an abundant crop of peas.

The township of Dufferin, thirty-three miles from Roberval, is being cleared.

The price of the lots is twenty cents per acre or \$20.00, which is payable in five yearly instalments of four dollars.

From what we have seen we encourage all hard-working and energetic farmers who wish to provide a future for their sons, to go to Lake St. John and clear lots in the township of Dufferin amongst others.

There are also townships on the east side of the lake which can be crossed by steamer in two hours.

At St. Joseph d'Alma the soil is of superior quality.

There are lots for sale with some cleared land for \$100 each lot.

FRANÇOIS VERRET,

March, 1890.

FRANÇOIS MARTEL.

**Report of Rev. M. Dubé, curé of Ste. Julie de Somerset.**

Sir,—Taking advantage of the liberality of the directors of the Quebec and Lake St. John Railway Company who wish to encourage agriculture and colonization, I visited the fine valley of Lake St. John during the month of August last.

My companion, Mr. Antoine Herménégilde Dumas, an active and intelligent farmer, and myself, left Ste. Julie on the 11th August and reached Chambord junction at 5 P.M., on the 12th. After going 177 miles through the mountains, after having run along abysses, rivers and lakes, one is well pleased to reach Chambord, a charming parish on the delightful shore of the great Lake St. John. As soon as one sees it as the train issues from the mountains there is a general exclamation of : "Oh ! how beautiful."

The next day, the 13th, we went to Roberval. The site of the village is very fine and there is a splendid view from this populous centre. On one side we see the parishes of St. Louis and St. Jérôme, on the other the Indian Reserve, Tikouapé, Mistassini and Peribonka.

On our way we visited the convent just built by the Ursulines, a fine three-story building which would do credit to our cities.

At a distance of about half a mile is the Roberval hotel, frequented by tourists who come to fish and who, when they choose, can go by steamer to the Peribonka.

A short distance further is a fine steam saw-mill where the track ends.

In the parishes of Chambord and Roberval there are lands of the first quality; clay mixed with lime stone. We saw fine fields of wheat, oats, peas and buckwheat. The hay crop, although lighter than in previous years, was still fine.

On leaving the village of Roberval for St. Prime we saw the farm of Mr. Lippens, the brother of our celebrated agricultural lecturer. Mr. Lippens thoroughly understands farming. Every one knows that in Belgium, the country from which he comes, agriculture has reached the highest degree of perfection.

We saw on his farm a fine field of vegetables and a fine crop of cereals.

With St. Prime the valley of Lake St. John commences. There the aspect of everything changes; the mountains disappear and the horizon is far away. The soil is very good and the crop abundant.

The church is a mile from the lake; it is a frame church built of cedar like the churches at Chambord and Roberval. It will soon be replaced by one of stone. The *curé*, Mr. Belley, is an energetic man and works hard for the advancement of his parish, whose prospects are bright.

On the 14th we visited St. Félicien, a parish of 1,000 souls. The village and church are built on a height facing the river Aschouapmouchouan, which at that place is about four hundred yards wide. We cross it to reach Tikouapé. In the spring the steamer ascends it as far as the church.

The soil at St. Félicien is also of the best quality.

In rear of this parish, at the river Doré, there is a mission which at present consists of seven families.

The crop this year has a splendid appearance. Good farms may be procured there on very favourable conditions by applying to the Crown Lands Agent.

Tikouapé or St. Méthode is a new parish which has a priest since a year. There is excellent land at this place, but unfortunately the overflowing of the river caused by the high waters of the lake in the spring is a great drawback. The water covers a considerable portion of the land in May and June at seed time, which compels the farmers to leave it in meadow or pasture.

We then went to the township of Normandin and proceeded as far as the chapel. This is beyond a doubt the finest of the townships around the lake. The soil is clayey and fertile. We had ocular proof of this in the shape of fine meadows and fields of grain. In the vicinity of the chapel some farmers live whose buildings show that they are well to do. Every one agrees in saying that St. Cyrille de Normandin will soon be one of the most flourishing parishes of the Saguenay valley.

The township of Albanel, where some settlers already live, is also very fine.

There is land there for hundreds and hundreds of settlers. When the railway will run through these townships, which it is sure to do before long, the Saguenay will be the granary of the Province of Quebec.



HEBERTVILLE.



From Normandin we retraced our steps to Roberval, passing through the Indian Reserve, where we had the pleasure of meeting the reverend fathers Arnault and Laporte. The latter is at present superintending the construction of a large three story-stone building with a mansard roof. We saw several Indian families camped in the neighborhood of the chapel.

The horizon is here very distant and the view splendid.

On the 16th we went to Chicoutimi. The first parish which we visited was St. Jérôme. The church and village are close to the lake. The site is very pretty. To reach it we crossed in a scow over the cove formed by the lake and into which the river Metabetchouan falls. This is the old Indian landing place. The works on the Chicoutimi branch have stopped at this point. The line will have to cross the estuary on a bridge which is estimated to cost not less than \$90,000.

There is also very good land in St. Jérôme, but the ground is hilly. There are many gullies which make good sized hills. There are the same kind of gullies in Hébertville.

Hébertville, named after its founder the late lamented Rev. N. J. Hébert, *curé* of Kamouraska, is a fine large parish. The village is built on the banks of the river des Aulnaies. The church, built of fine red granite, is on an elevation commanding the village. It is 150 feet long and 60 wide and crowned with a fine steeple. It was built in 1880 by the present *curé*, Rev. B. E. Leclerc. The interior is not finished, but the sacristy, commenced under the supervision of the late lamented Rev. André Pelletier who had charge of the parish for four years, is large and well finished. This church, with the Cathedral at Chicoutimi and the church of St. Alphonse, are the finest of the diocese.

The parish of Hébertville is one of the most populous. There are very fine farms and everything has the appearance of comfort.

After Hébertville we visited St. Dominique, passing by Kascouia, a mission of St. Cyriac with a resident priest. St. Cyriac is a poor place not suited for cultivators, surrounded with rocks and mountains. It is a fishing and hunting place opposite Lake Kenogami. St. Dominique has a church and presbytery built of stone, which are due to Rev. Mr. Kérouac, the present *curé*. There are several rich farmers there. There are fertile valleys amidst the mountains.

On the 18th we arrived at Chicoutimi. This is the *chef-lieu* of the Saguenay district and the residence of the bishop, whose palace is a fine brick building situate in rear of the Cathedral, on the bank of the Saguenay. From the gallery one can see the village of Ste. Anne, and the Messrs. Price's saw mills. Near the church is the convent of the Good Shepherd as well as the Seminary which has just had a considerable wing added to it. A little further is the Marine Hospital under the management of the Ursulines. In front of the hospital is a fine granite column to the memory of Mr. Price, who was called the "Father of the Saguenay."

They are now working at finishing the cathedral, which promises to be very fine.

On the 19th we were at Notre-Dame de Laterrière, a fine, rich parish. The church is of stone and was built by the late Rev. J. Hudon, who has just died at St. Philippe de Néri, in the county of Kamouraska. This good priest laboured in this parish and at Hébertville with true apostolical zeal.

A woollen factory was started in this parish but did not succeed. It is a pity, for such an industry would have been very beneficial to the agricultural population.

Our time being limited we were unable to visit Ste. Anne, St. Charles, St. Bruno, St. Joseph d'Alma and St. Gédéon.



The *cure* of the last named parish, Rev. Mr. Paradis,—told us that there was very good land in it which could be bought cheap.

A correspondent of the *Courrier du Canada* informs us, on the 8th September instant, that in the townships of Taillon, Delisle and Taché there is room for many flourishing parishes; that there are already settlers in these townships, there is a chapel, saw and flour mills, and that roads are being made. So much the better. Let us hope that the example of these hardy settlers will be contagious. Monseigneur Bégin, the worthy bishop of Chicoutimi, endeavours to follow the example of his lamented predecessor, Monseigneur Racine, to encourage these intrepid settlers by procuring them all the religious assistance they require.

The editor of *La Presse*, of Montreal, is at present writing articles in praise of the Saguenay region which he has just visited.

When one knows no matter how little about the history of this part of the country and recollects the many and difficult trials to which the first settlers were exposed: frost, inundations and the dreadful conflagration of 1870, one may well be astonished at what he now sees. But if the settler is courageous and laborious, we must admit that he is rewarded by the fertility of the soil. After a lapse of twenty years we no longer find a trace of these calamities.

If our Canadian youths were really fond of agriculture and took up the lands which the Government liberally offers them instead of wasting their strength for the benefit of our neighbours, what a fine future would be theirs and what a wealth for the Province of Quebec. In some years the Saguenay would have increased its yield five-fold.

Such, Sir, are the impressions we have brought back from our trip. In accordance with your request we hasten to make them known to you.

It only remains for us to thank the directors of the Lake St. John Railway Company for their kindness towards us. Please convey our grateful thanks to them.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

P. P. DUBÉ, priest, *cure*.

Ste. Julie de Somerset, 11th September, 1890.

### *Report of the River Ouelle Delegates.*

“St. Prime, situated nine miles from Roberval, is a parish remarkable on account of its geographical position, offering great advantages to farmers, who appear to profit thereby in every respect. The parish has three double ranges. The roads are very straight and cross it direct, and there are farmers at each side.

St. Félicien, which is 18 miles from Roberval, offers in every respect the same advantages, with the exception of the first range, which is not quite as advantageous for the farmer, but for which he is recompensed by the picturesque view of the homesteads scattered on the banks of the Ashpamouchouan River.

Normandin, which is 18 miles from St. Félicien, is remarkable for its great extent of flat and very fertile land. The cultivation of the land is well advanced for the time, and the houses are all built with taste. We also visited some fine herds of improved cattle. The most attractive farms are those belonging to Messrs. Girouard, Laliberté and Beaudet.

Further north we espy the district of Albanel, which, with time, will rival Normandin.

St. Jérôme, situated on the borders of Lake St. John, is one of the largest parishes of that district. Its inhabitants are mostly settlers from parishes of the south shore. Their homes bespeak ease and comfort.

Hébertville, situated twelve miles lower down than St. Jérôme, inland, is the largest parish of Lake St. John, and is inhabited partly by settlers from the parishes below Quebec, the greater number from the County of Kamouraska."

ANTOINE GUY.

OCTAVE LÉVESQUE.

*Roberval, 28th April, 1891.*

J. G. SCOTT, Esq., Quebec.

Sir,

In reply to your despatch.

The following will show the result of the sowing, on my farm at Roberval, of 2 lbs. of wheat which I received from Mr. McTavish, of Winnipeg, in March, 1881. That same year they produced 207 pounds. In 1882, these 207 pounds produced 38 bushels. In 1883, I realized out of my sowing of 38 bushels 742 bushels, weighing from 70 to 71 lbs. per bushel. Therefore at the end of three years, 2 lbs. of wheat had produced the very satisfactory result of 742 bushels.

It was my farmers Edward Lavoie and Léon Mathieu who cultivated this wheat.

Reverend Curé Lizotte was witness to this trial and can certify to the truth of the above.

Yours truly,

EULOGUE MENARD.

*Letter from His Eminence Cardinal Taschereau.*

ARCHBISHOP'S PALACE, QUEBEC, 9th May, 1890.

J. G. SCOTT, Esq.,  
Secretary,

Quebec & Lake St. John Railway Company.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday with a copy of circular No. 275, which offers so many advantages to those who wish to settle either alone, or with their families on the splendid lands of Lake St. John. I take a great interest in the colonization of that region which formed part of the archi-diocese of Quebec during the first seven years of my episcopacy.

I visited it in 1874, and the high opinion I formed of it induced me to ask at once for the erection of the diocese of Chicoutimi, in order to promote the development of that important section of the country.

The many parishes which have been formed since that date and the really wonderful increase of the old ones, have exceeded my expectations.

The building of the railway and, above all, the liberality of the company has had a great deal to do with this admirable progress.

The company has therefore earned the gratitude of the whole Province, and I beg you to believe that no one feels it more than

Your obedient servant,

E. A. CARD. TASCHEREAU,  
Archbishop of Quebec.

*Letter from the late Monseigneur Labelle.*

ROME, HOTEL MARINI, 30th May, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—I have just received your circular of the 5th May, and I approve of it on all points. In truth, there is splendid land in the places you indicate for colonization, and I have no doubt that stock-raising, the manufacture of butter and cheese, with the cultivation of grain and ensilage, will render this region as prosperous as any other in the country.

The district of Quebec should continue to send its children there. They will find friends and relations whose courage and endeavours have been crowned with the greatest success.

This example before their eyes can but stimulate their zeal and their hopes.

Continue to promote colonization, and Lake St. John, the whole country and your railway will derive greater benefits.

Monseigneur Marquis will be of great use to you. The Pope showers favours upon him because he is at present a colonizing Excellency. It seems to me that, from a distance, a small portion falls on me, and that the settlers will be grateful for it to God and to their country.

Yours truly,

A. LABELLE, priest, Ass. Min., &c., &c.

J. G. SCOTT, Esq.,

Secretary and Manager,

Quebec and Lake St. John Railway Co.,

Quebec, Canada.

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## ADVICE TO THE LAKE ST. JOHN SETTLERS FROM AN ONTARIO

FARMER, MR. JOHN FLATT, OF HAMILTON, WHO

VISITED THE LAKE IN 1890.

"The first thing to be done is to thoroughly prepare the soil and put it in such condition that it will yield a good crop. When this is done, consider what kind of grain will yield the best return for the trouble it gives.

The land which the settler intends to sow in the spring should be ploughed the previous fall, and the furrows between the ridges made deep enough to carry off all the water, shortly after the snow is melted, and the frost is out of the ground, say a depth of three inches.

It would be better to sow oats and wheat before anything else in the spring, and other grain afterwards, but without delay.

I would advise you to mix grass seed with all your spring sowings, leaving a part of your land in hay, and ploughing the remainder. In the portion which you intend to plough in the fall, sow a bushel of clover seed to every ten acres; in the portion left for hay sow a bushel of timothy and a bushel of clover seed to every ten acres.

Now that you have numerous facilities for sending all kinds of produce to market, it would be advisable to make a good selection of the grain you wish to cultivate and to consider whether it would not be profitable to grow hops for instance.

Poultry raising would also pay, I presume, as Quebec must be a good market for poultry and pork."

JOHN FLATT.





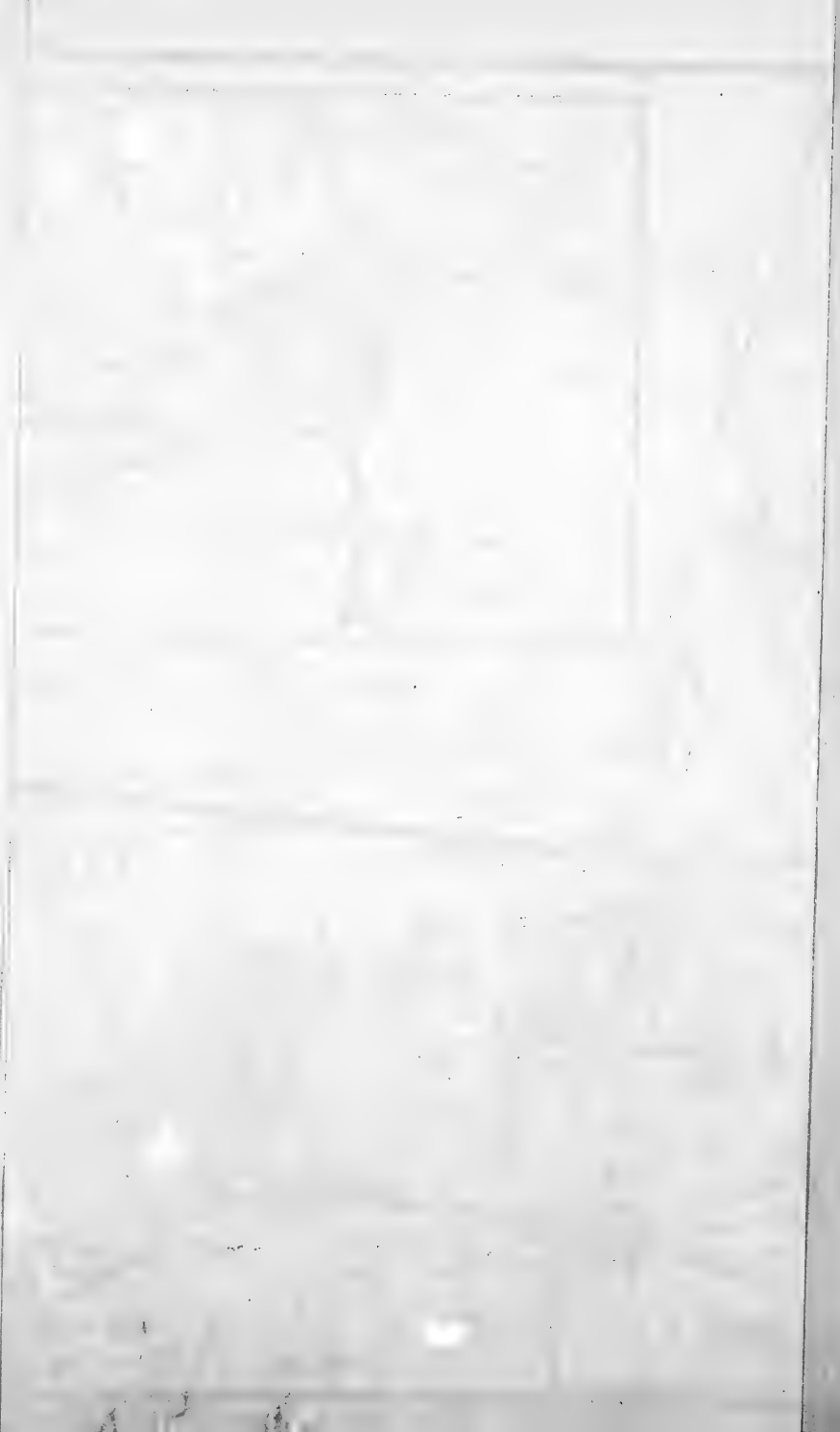


**OBSERVATIONS upon the highest Autumn temperature at  
Montreal, Quebec and Roberval, Lake St. John, by the  
Meteorological Department.**

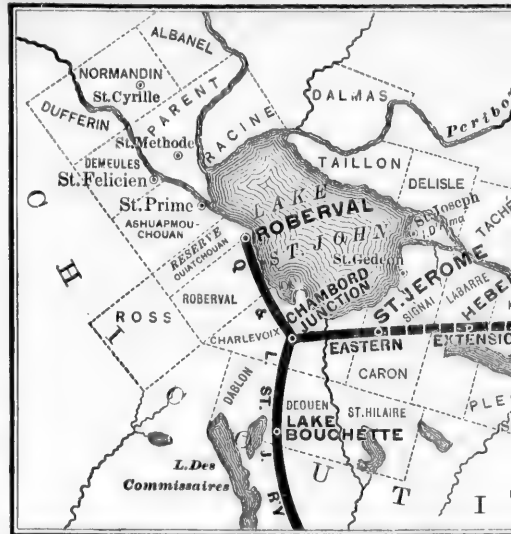
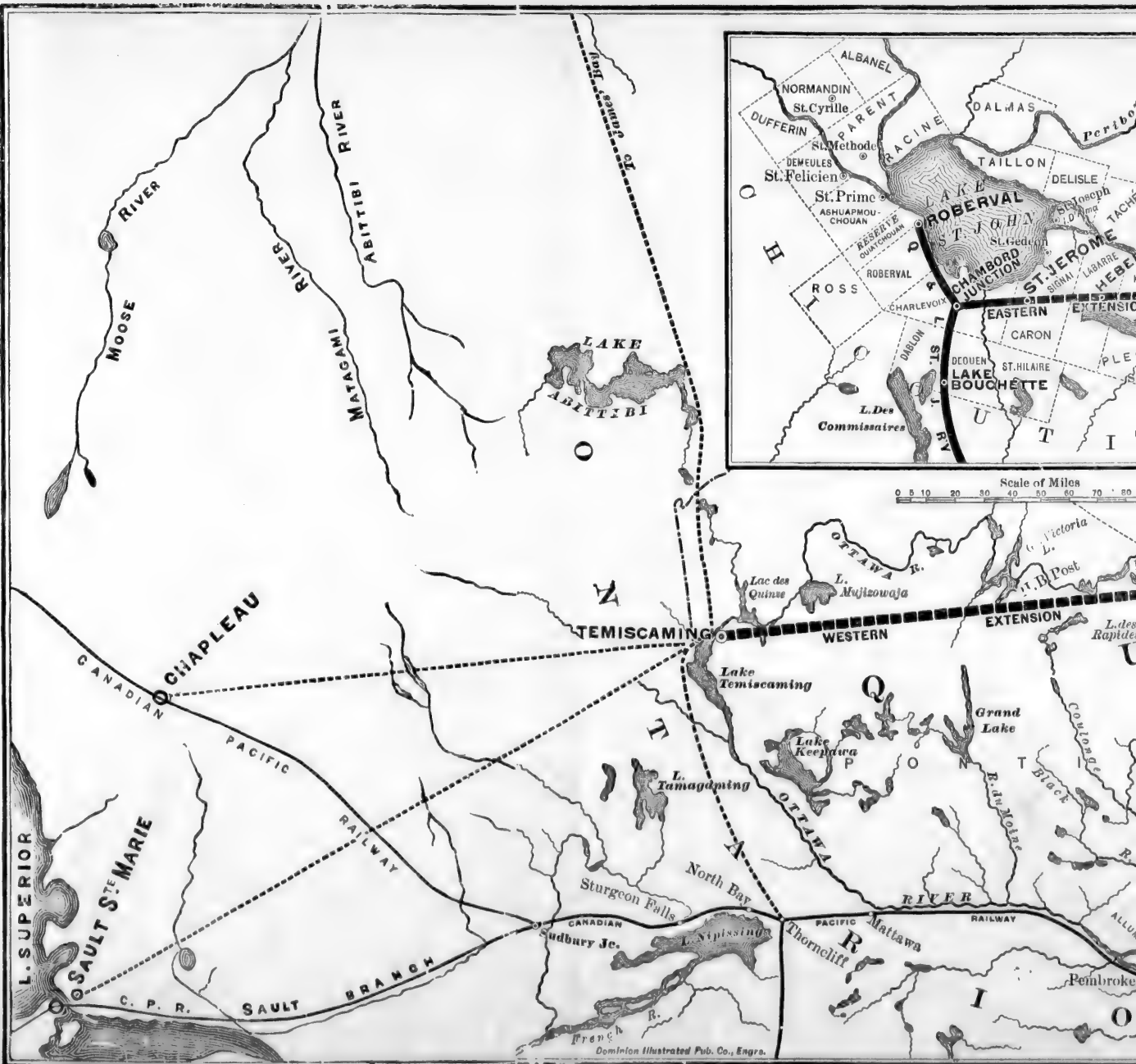
To show the excellent climate enjoyed by the valley of Lake St. John, especially at harvest time, we give below a table of the observations of temperature made in 1890, by the officers of the meteorological service at Montreal, Quebec and Roberval.

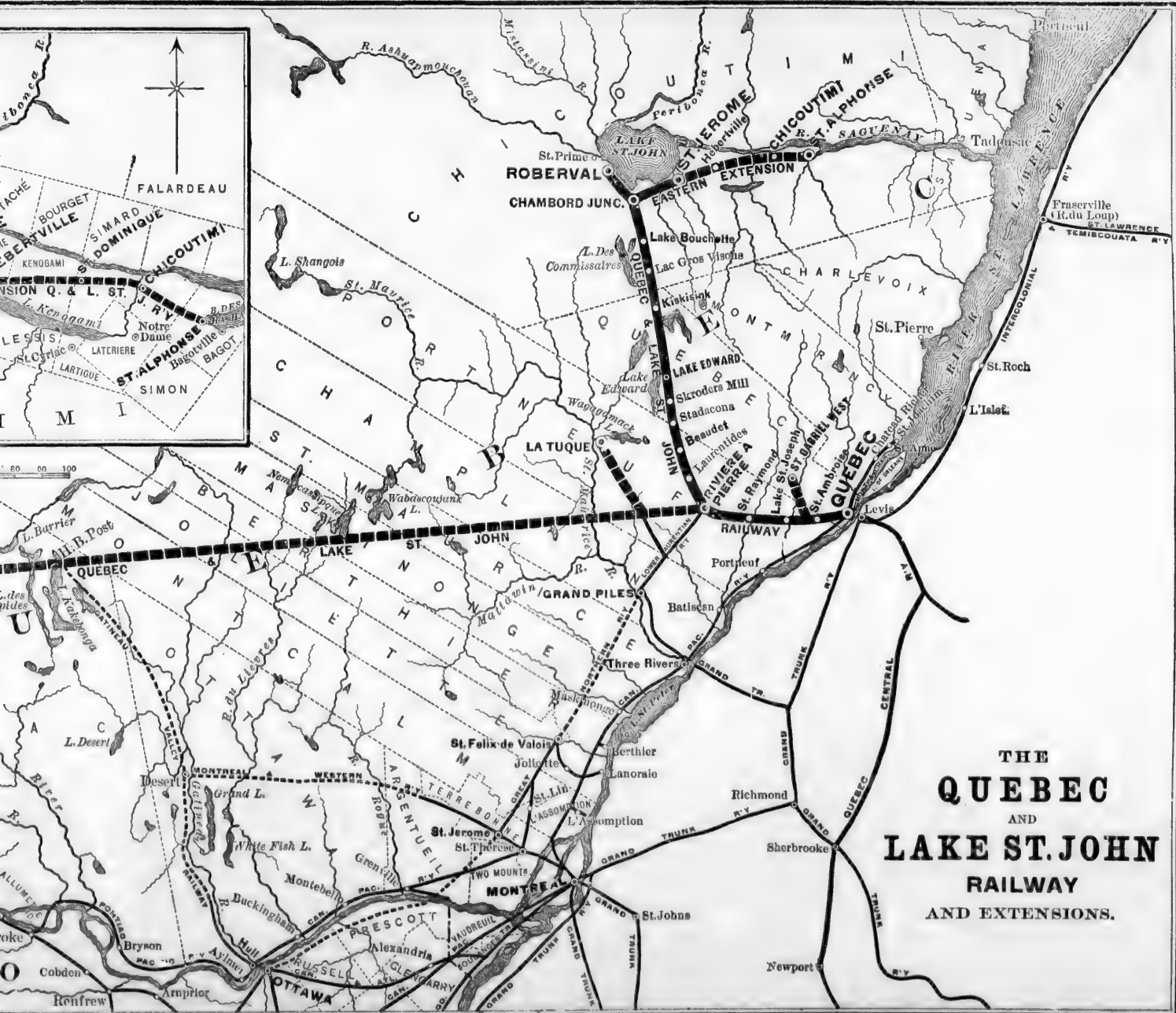
It will be seen that the mean temperature was two degrees higher at Roberval than at Quebec and even Montreal.

| Date.               | Place.     | Register. | Place.  | Register. | Place.                     | Register. |
|---------------------|------------|-----------|---------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|
| 1890.<br>September. | Montreal.. |           | Quebec. |           | Roberval,<br>Lake St. John |           |
| 15 ..               | "          | 65        | "       | 63        | "                          | 68        |
| 16 ..               | "          | 62        | "       | 59        | "                          | 65        |
| 17 ..               | "          | 64        | "       | 61        | "                          | 67        |
| 18 ..               | "          | 69        | "       | 59        | "                          | 65        |
| 19 ..               | "          | 71        | "       | 68        | "                          | 74        |
| 20 ..               | "          | 63        | "       | 67        | "                          | 45        |
| 21 ..               | "          | 53        | "       | 54        | "                          | 54        |
| 22 ..               | "          | 59        | "       | 58        | "                          | 55        |
| 23 ..               | "          | 59        | "       | 53        | "                          | 57        |
| 24 ..               | "          | 51        | "       | 58        | "                          | 58        |
| 25 ..               | "          | 56        | "       | 55        | "                          | 64        |
| 26 ..               | "          | 58        | "       | 56        | "                          | 50        |
| 27 ..               | "          | 51        | "       | 53        | "                          | 47        |
| 28 ..               | "          | 52        | "       | 51        | "                          | 48        |
| 29 ..               | "          | 55        | "       | 54        | "                          | 57        |
| 30 ..               | "          | 65        | "       | 72        | "                          | 71        |
| October.            |            |           |         |           |                            |           |
| 1 ..                | "          | 69        | "       | 66        | "                          | 78        |
| 2 ..                | "          | 72        | "       | 70        | "                          | 78        |
| 3 ..                | "          | 64        | "       | 68        | "                          | 65        |
| 4 ..                | "          | 64        | "       | 65        | "                          | 66        |
| 5 ..                | "          | 60        | "       | 61        | "                          | 54        |
| 6 ..                | "          | 48        | "       | 44        | "                          | 52        |
| 7 ..                | "          | 46        | "       | 44        | "                          | 56        |
| 8 ..                | "          | 46        | "       | 44        | "                          | 60        |
| Mean.....           | "          | 59        | "       | 59        | "                          | 61        |











## **To persons engaged in the lumber trade and to owners of saw-mills, workshops and factories generally.**

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There are many places along the line of the Lake St. John Railway suitable for saw-mills, pulp-mills, paper-mills and other factories.

It is a part of the policy of the company to offer every possible inducement for the establishing of these industries, by granting specially low freight rates, and contracts for a specified number of years, and by transporting machinery at a nominal rate.

The new branch lines which are about to be completed provide outlets in all directions for the products of mills and manufactories.

The Lower Laurentian Railway, which will strike the Lake St. John line at Rivière à Pierre, will give direct communication with Three Rivers and Montreal, and the "Eastern Extension" from Chambord to Chicoutimi and St. Alphonse, on the Saguenay River, will give access to sea ports in which the largest ships and ocean steamers can load with the greatest ease.

The Tuque Branch on the St. Maurice, which is now under contract, will open up one of the finest forest regions of the Province and give rise to a considerable trade in spruce and pine, which cannot at present be brought to a market owing to the excessive distance and the consequent cost of production.

La Tuque Falls, where the whole of the St. Maurice pours over, form the strongest water-power in the Province, capable of driving innumerable saw-mills and factories.

From La Tuque to Grandes Piles, thirty miles from Three Rivers, the St. Maurice is navigable for steamers for a distance of 70 miles. It is therefore proposed, as soon as the Tuque Branch is completed, to run a steamer between La Tuque and Grande Piles, from which point the Pacific Railway runs to Three Rivers. This would be an incomparable trip for tourists.

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## **The Quebec and Lake St. John Railway offers the following advantages to settlers :**

Farmers, upon presentation of a certificate from the Commissioner of Agriculture, at Quebec, and immigrants arriving from Europe, upon presentation of a certificate from the Immigration Agent at Quebec, are offered the following privileges if they wish to settle at Lake St. John.

Free transport from Quebec to Lake St. John for *bona fide* settlers and their families with 300lbs. of household effects for each adult, and 150lbs. for each child. All baggage over 300lbs. but not exceeding one car load for each family, will be carried at the nominal rate of 9 cents per 100lbs.

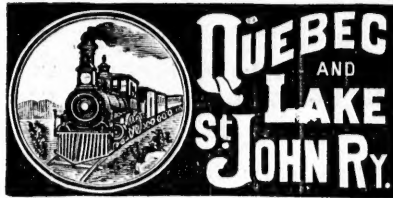
*Bona fide* intending settlers who wish only to visit the lands with the intention of buying for settlement, can obtain a half rate return ticket from Quebec to Lake St. John for \$2.75 on presentation of a certificate from the Dominion Immigration Agent, or the Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture.

Settlers will find excellent lands under cultivation at Lake St. John for sale.

For information respecting the sale of lands, etc., apply to Mr. GEORGE AUDET, Crown Lands Agent at Roberval, Lake St. John, Monseigneur Marquis, at the Department of Agriculture, Quebec, and European immigrants may apply to Mr. L. Stafford, Dominion Immigration Agent at Quebec.

For other information see our time-tables.

N.B.—In order to procure a certificate from the Assistant Commissioner, the applicant (if of the farming class) must produce a certificate from the clergyman in charge of his parish, as a proof of good faith.



## TO SETTLERS.

### Wheat Lands.

**Good Climate ! Good Wood ! Excellent Water !**

2,000,000 acres of the finest wheat lands in the Province of Quebec are now offered for sale by the Provincial Government at 20 cents an acre, in the Lake St. John Territory, only 10 hours distant (190 miles) by rail from Quebec, Canada's greatest seaport. These lands are situated in the following Townships, amongst many others, viz.:

|                      | Acres surveyed. |                    | Acres surveyed. |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Albanel.....         | 35,472          | Dequen .....       | 58,797          |
| Ashuapmouchouan .... | 20,350          | Dolbeau .....      | 48,000          |
| Bagot .....          | 21,371          | Dufferin .....     | 20,189          |
| Bourget .....        | 21,264          | Métabetchouan..... | 16,305          |
| Caron .....          | 22,467          | Normandin .....    | 20,426          |
| Charlevoix .....     | 20,058          | Parent .....       | 40,375          |
| Dablon .....         | 23,375          | Racine .....       | 31,000          |
| Dallmas .....        | 29,400          | Roberval .....     | 10,093          |
| Delisle .....        | 15,564          | Ross .....         | 18,000          |
| Demeules.....        | 20,315          | Saint-Hilaire..... | 36,000          |

All the lands are of easy access by steamer on the lake, and by government colonization roads from railway terminus at Roberval.

The steamers run as follows on Lake St. John during the season of navigation :—

The steamer **"Undine"** leaves Roberval at 8 a.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays for St. Félicien, arriving there at 11 o'clock, stopping at the Indian Reserve and at St. Prime going and returning.

The **"Peribonca"** will make two or more trips weekly, to the River Peribonca, in the interest of colonization, and the Roberval steam saw-mill.

The **"Mistassini"** makes a trip daily between Roberval and the Grande Discharge during the tourist season, commencing the 15th June.

The effects of *bona fide* settlers will be conveyed *gratis*.

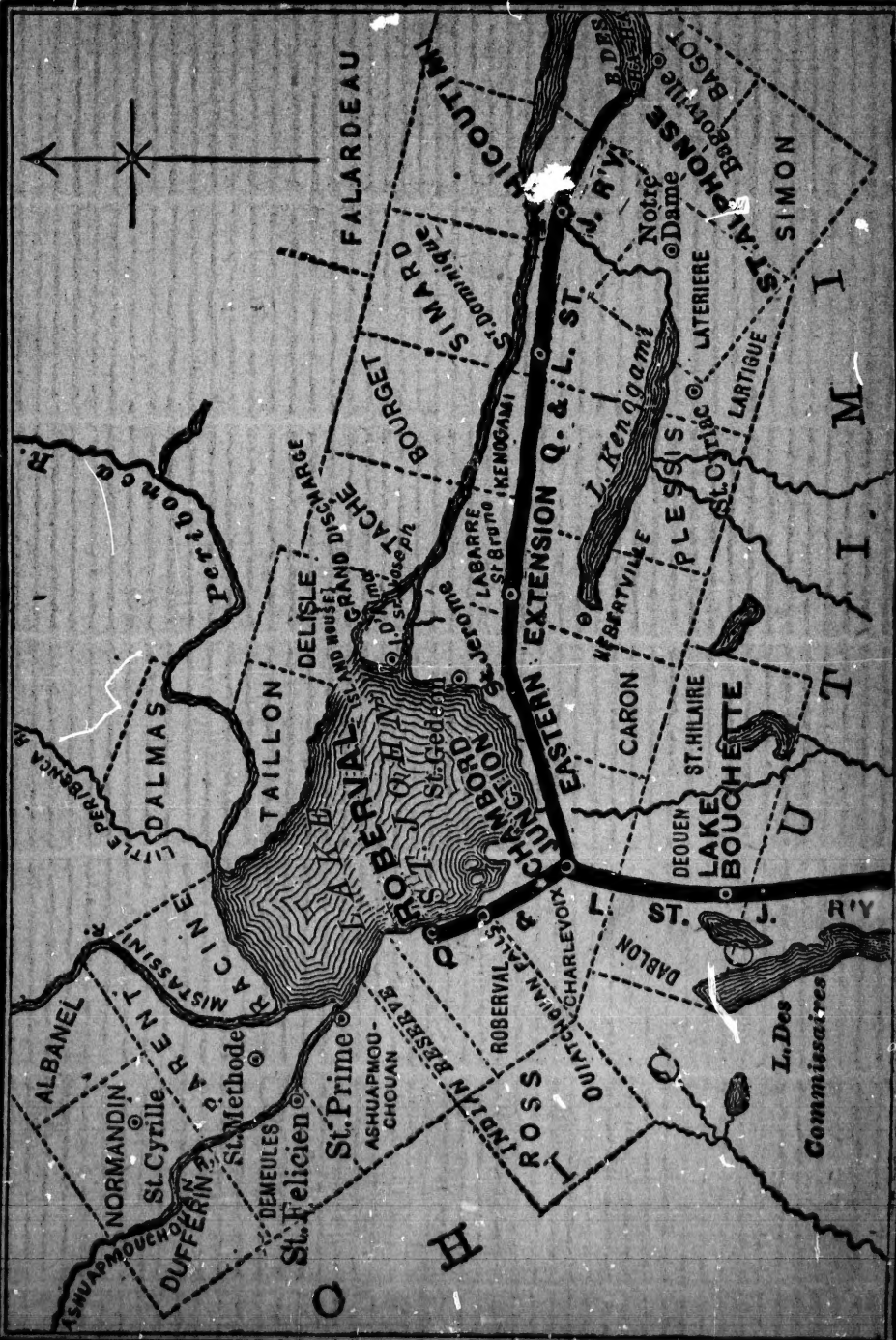
## DISTANCES.

The principal points in the Lake St. John and Saguenay districts, their population and approximate distance from Chambord Junction are as follows:

| To the West.       | Miles. | Population. | To the East.           | Miles. | Population. |
|--------------------|--------|-------------|------------------------|--------|-------------|
| St. Louis.....     | 1      | 1000        | St. Jérôme .....       | 9      | 2000        |
| Roberval.....      | 13     | 1400        | St. Géaéon .....       | 17     | 800         |
| St. Prime .....    | 22     | 1100        | St. Bruno .....        | 20     | 300         |
| St. Félicien ..... | 31     | 800         | St. Joseph d'Alma ..   | 23     | 800         |
| St. Méthode.....   | 36     | 300         | Hébertville .....      | 19     | 2600        |
| Normandin.....     | 49     | 200         | St. Cyriae .....       | 33     | 300         |
| Peribonca.....     | 45     | 20          | Rivière aux Sables ..  | 43     | 1600        |
|                    |        |             | Chicoutimi .....       | 54     | 5000        |
|                    |        |             | St. Alphonse .....     | 65     | 1200        |
|                    |        |             | Bagotville .....       | 66     | 2400        |
|                    |        |             | N. D. de Laterrière .. | 55     | 2000        |

The mileage of the Railway and branch lines when completed will be as follows :—

| Main line—                                                                | Miles. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Quebec to Chambord Junction completed.....                                | 177    |
| Chambord to Roberval completed.....                                       | 13     |
|                                                                           | 190    |
| Eastern Extension to Chicoutimi and St. Alphonse (5 miles completed)..... | 70     |
| La Tuque Branch.....                                                      | 30     |
| St. Gabriel .....                                                         | 10     |
| Western Extension to Temiscaming.....                                     | 400    |
| Total.....                                                                | 700    |



# QUEBEC AND LAKE ST. JOHN RAILWAY.

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS FOR 1891.

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